

The Importance of Certification

Patients rarely meet Central Service (CS) professionals, but they rely on them just the same. They count on technicians for clean, sterile, well-functioning instruments. They count on them to follow best practices and stay ahead of the technology curve.

Certification helps meet these expectations and ensures that CS professionals possess the essential knowledge and skills necessary for managing critical departmental duties safely, effectively and consistently. What's more, the ongoing education required for CS professionals to maintain their certification status helps ensure that these professionals stay on top of ever-evolving instrumentation, technology, standards and best practices to keep CS departments functioning at peak performance. IAHCSSMM began formal certification of CS technicians in 1971 to provide a mechanism for individuals to be recognized as having the necessary competence to perform their duties as Central Service professionals.

CRCST Certification

Certified Registered Central Service Technician

The Central Service department, also known as Sterile Processing, provides vital support to all areas of patient care, and interacts with personnel from all areas of the hospital. It is the center of all activity involving supplies and equipment needed for surgery and other patient care areas.

IAHCSSMM offers the Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) certification, which is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the experience, knowledge and skills necessary to provide competent services as a Central Service Technician.

How to Prepare for the Examination

Those interested in becoming a Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) have a wealth of resources at their fingertips. IAHCSSMM offers a host of educational tools to prepare technicians for their exam.

Please Note: Courses are preparation for the exam; passing a course does not equate to Certification. IAHCSSMM's Education Department has developed materials as an optional method to assist individuals in preparing for the CRCST exam. Those materials were developed and produced independently of the Certification Council, which does not develop, require, approve, or endorse any specific training materials..

CRCST certification requires that you pass the certification exam and complete 400 hours of hands-on experience in a CS department. These hours can be completed before testing or within 6 months of passing the exam. IAHCSSMM highly recommends completing, or at least beginning, your hours of experience before testing. Hands-on experience provides an invaluable resource with which to better understand the standards, knowledge, and practices needed to be successful in a CS department and on the CRCST Exam.

Please Follow the instructions listed on the application to apply for CRCST Certification. Select CRCST provisional certification application for students who have not yet completed their externships