

# DISCOVERING QUALITY JOBS

## STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIAN

### WHAT ARE QUALITY JOBS?

Quality Jobs offer competitive wages and benefits, predictable hours, and opportunities for advancement without requiring a college degree. They exist in high-growth industries that value skills gained through alternative routes such as training programs, military service, lived experience, and more.

### WHAT ARE STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIANS?

Sterile Processing Technicians work behind the scenes in hospitals and clinics and do not provide direct patient care. They clean, disinfect, assemble, sterilize, store, and distribute medical instruments and equipment used in surgeries and procedures. This work requires following strict protocols essential to preventing infection and ensuring patient safety.

### YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS JOB IF YOU ARE:

- Very detail-oriented and able to follow strict procedures.
- Highly organized and able to manage tasks accurately.
- Comfortable working in fast-paced clinical environments.
- Reliable and committed to safety and quality standards.
- Interested in healthcare without direct patient care.

### STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIANS WORK AT:

Hospitals and health systems

Surgical centers and operating rooms

Clinics and specialty care facilities

Outpatient procedure centers



### THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS:

Medical Equipment Preparer

Central Service Technician

Central Sterile Technician

Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST)

Sterilization Technician

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY JOB:



**Living Wages:** Starting pay is **\$23–\$30 per hour**. Many employers prefer and pay more for certified and experienced sterile processing technicians.



**Accessible Hiring Practices:** **No degree or credential is required** but many employers prefer completion of available short-term training and certification.



**Comprehensive Benefits:** Many employers offer a full benefit package, including medical, dental, vision, paid time off, and retirement savings, which can **increase your total compensation by up to 30%**.



**Training and Advancement Opportunities:** **Employers offer ongoing training, continuing education, and credentialing support**, along with opportunities to advance into specialized or advanced clinical roles.

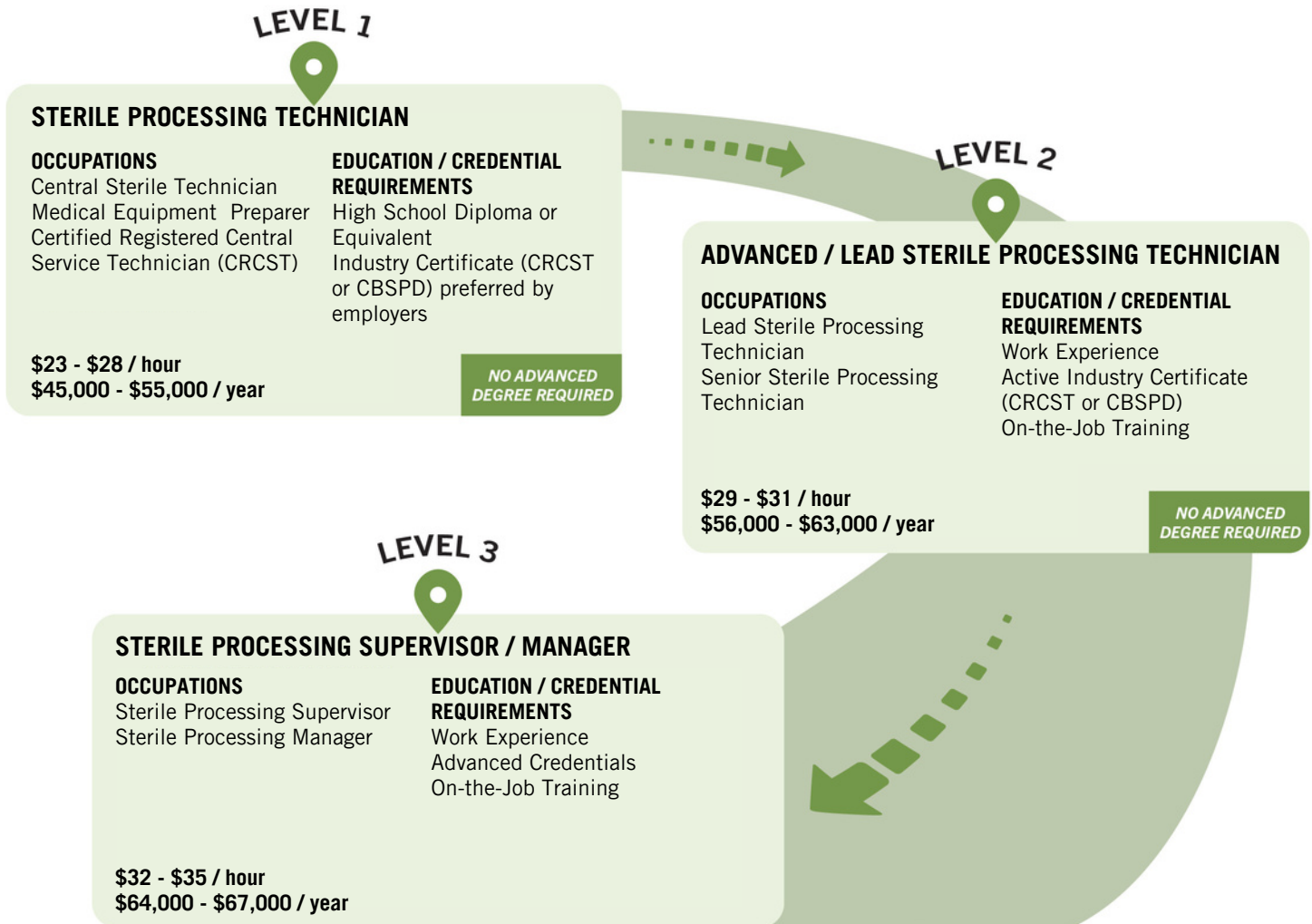


**Predictable Schedule:** **Schedules vary by employer and setting.** Many employers operate 24/7, offering steady, flexible hours, compressed work weeks, and additional overtime opportunities.



**Worker Safety and Engagement:** **Highly regulated healthcare settings with strong safety standards**, standardized infection control and safety protocols, and clear channels for worker input and concerns.

## CAREER PATHWAYS FOR STERILE PROCESSING TECHNICIANS



### COMMON QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 years or older
- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Ability to pass a background check and drug screening

### INSIDER TIPS:

- Reliability, attention to detail, and ability to follow strict guidelines is a required skill.
- Hospitals and public-sector role offer higher wages and better benefits.
- Earning a CRCST makes you a certified Sterile Processing Technician and improves job prospects, pay, and advancement opportunities.



### GET STARTED

#### CONNECT WITH A WORKSOURCE REP

Talk to your career coach or get in touch with a WorkSource representative today at [worksourceportlandmetro.org](https://worksourceportlandmetro.org).

#### GET A HEAD START

WorkSource offers scholarships for training and certification. Learn more about applying by attending a free virtual info session.

Visit [worksourceportlandmetro.org/events](https://worksourceportlandmetro.org/events) to register.

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