

Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) Exam

Revised January 2026



CRCST certification is designed to recognize entry level and existing technicians who have demonstrated the experience, knowledge, and skills necessary to provide competent services as a sterile processing technician. CRCST's are integral members of the healthcare team who are responsible for decontaminating, inspecting, assembling, disassembling, packaging, and sterilizing reusable surgical instruments or devices in a health care facility which are essential for patient safety. While the CRCST program is based on US practice and standards, it is in harmony with international ISO standards and open to all candidates in the US and abroad who meet the eligibility requirements.

To earn CRCST certification, candidates are required to successfully demonstrate skills through the **completion of hands-on work experience in a Central Service/Sterile Processing department**, as well as the successful **completion of an examination** developed to measure the understanding of general sterile processing and infection prevention topics. Those certified as a CRCST are required to renew their credentials annually through the completion of continuing education requirements.

Please read and complete each section fully and accurately in clear, legible handwriting or type. The completed application and full payment must be received for processing. Applications are typically **processed within three to four weeks**. A **\$140 exam fee** is required at the time of submission. Please note that \$25 of the \$140 is a non-refundable application fee. Once your application has been fully processed, you will receive an email with instructions on how to schedule your exam and details about your eligibility window. **It is your responsibility to schedule your exam within the 120-day eligibility period.** Please note that scheduling information is not available by phone.

All applications are subject to verification. You and/or your manager or supervisor may be asked to provide additional information or documentation to complete your application. If contacted, **you will have 120 days to submit the requested information. Failure to do so within this timeframe will result in cancellation of your application, and you will forfeit your exam fee.** To apply again, you will be required to submit a new application along with a separate exam fee.

Additional information on certification requirements, policies, and procedures is available in the HSPA Certification Handbook and at myhspa.org/certification. For further assistance, contact HSPA at 312.440.0078 or certification@myhspa.org.

Please complete each page and submit your application online or by mail:

Online: <https://dashboard.myhspa.org/certification>

Mail: HSPA
55 West Wacker Drive, Suite 501
Chicago, IL 60601

If you're paying by credit/debit card, we ask that you submit your application online. For video help with applying online, please use this QR code:

If you are paying by check or money order, please submit this application by mail.



HSPA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is interested in ensuring that no disabled individual is deprived of the opportunity to take an examination solely by reason of that disability. HSPA will arrange to provide special testing accommodations for those individuals with a condition or disability as defined under the ADA. Accommodations will be provided at a designated testing center at no additional cost to the applicant.

HSPA's "Americans with Disabilities Policy Statement" can be found in full at myhspa.org and in the Certification Handbook. If you believe that you qualify for an accommodation pursuant to the ADA, we ask that you contact HSPA to request a Special Accommodations form, to be completed and submitted with your application.

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ I am ready to sit for the CRCST exam within the next 4 months, once my application is approved.
- ☐ Section 1: Certification Type – Select full or provisional.
- ☐ Section 2: Applicant Information – I have completed the applicant information.
- ☐ Section 3: Standards of Conduct, Disclosure, and Attestations – I have signed and dated the Statement of Understanding.
- ☐ Section 4: Application Fee – I have included a signed check/money order in the amount of \$140 USD.
- ☐ Section 5: Hands-On Experience – My Manager/Supervisor has completed and signed the Hands-On Experience. Please complete ONLY if applying for Full Certification.

SECTION 1: CERTIFICATION TYPE

Please let us know if you are applying for Full Certification or Provisional Certification.

- ☐ **Full Certification:** I have completed the required 400 hours of hands-on experience, as outlined by Section 5 of this application, in a Central Service/Sterile Processing department. **My Manager/Supervisor has completed Section 5 and I am submitting it with my application to test.**
- ☐ **Provisional Certification:** I will complete the required 400 hours of hands-on experience within 6 months of passing the certification exam. My hours will be accumulated in the categories, as outlined by Section 5 of this application. I understand that if I fail to complete and submit documentation of these hours to HSPA prior to the deadline, my certification will be revoked and I will be required to re-apply for certification.

SECTION 2: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please enter your first and last name as they appear on your primary government issued photo ID.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. HSPA ID# (Optional): _____

Applicant First Name: _____

Applicant Last Name(s): _____

Personal Information

Home Address: _____ Apt/Floor/Unit: _____

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country (if outside the USA): _____

Home Telephone: _____ Personal Email: _____

Employment Information (if available)

Organization Name: _____

Current Position Title: _____

Business City and State/Province: _____

Country (if outside the USA): _____

Business Telephone: _____ Business Email: _____

An email is required. Confirmation and scheduling information will be sent by email. Please check which email you would like to be used for correspondence: ☐ personal ☐ business

Please check which address you would like to be used for any mailed correspondence: ☐ personal ☐ business

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SECTION 3: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, DISCLOSURE AND ATTESTATIONS

APPLICATION STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I hereby apply to take the CRCST exam. By signing below and submitting an exam application and fee, I attest that I have read and understand the HSPA Certification Handbook (available online at myhspa.org) and agree to abide by the certification program's policies and procedures, and adhere to the Association's code of conduct. I agree to inform HSPA, without delay, of any matter that affects my ability to fulfill the certification requirements.

I further certify that the information provided by and about me on this form (and any other subsequent documentation submitted in relation to my certification) is accurate and correct. I understand that the information I provide to HSPA may be audited for verification. I agree to provide any information necessary to verify my experience and authorize HSPA to make any necessary inquiries in this regard. I understand that providing information on this or any document relating to my certification which is determined to be false or purposefully misleading, or in violation of any portion of the Code of Conduct and/or other policies and procedures, may result in disciplinary action, including the possible denial or revocation of certification, as outlined in the disciplinary policy.

Release of Exam Results

I understand that I will receive an individual score report containing a notification of "pass" or "fail" for the overall examination on screen at the testing center upon completion of the exam, and that HSPA will only release my pass/fail result directly to me, in written format, at the preferred email address provided herein. If I do not pass my exam, a result report containing an indication of my performance in each of the content domains will be provided in my online portal, and an email will be sent to me once they are available. Pass/fail notifications are not available orally and will not be provided to 3rd parties without my prior express written consent. Upon request, HSPA will verify an individual's current certification status (including their certification effective and expiration dates) to any inquiring party, but will not release the details of an individual's examination(s), including exam scores and the number of exam attempts.

Use of Personal Information

The information provided to HSPA on this form, and in regard to my certification exam, will be used in accordance with HSPA's Confidentiality Policy, included in the Certification Handbook and available online at myhspa.org. If I request and am granted special testing accommodations, HSPA may disclose personal information to third parties as necessary to administer my examination. This may include such information as my disability status, medical condition, or any political, religious, or philosophical beliefs which require accommodation. If HSPA is required by law to disclose confidential information, the individual(s) whose information is released will be notified to the extent permitted by law.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

This examination is confidential and proprietary. It is made available to me, the examinee, solely for the purpose of becoming certified in the technical area referenced in the title of this exam. I am expressly prohibited from recording, copying, reproducing, disclosing, publishing, or transmitting this examination, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose.

Printed Name: _____

Signature (must be handwritten): _____

Date: _____

SECTION 4: APPLICATION FEE IS \$140 USD

Payment must be submitted with the application for processing. We cannot accept purchase orders or payments by phone. **The \$140 application fee includes the cost to take the exam one time, as well as a \$25 non-refundable submission fee.** Subsequent examinations and testing are subject to additional testing fees.

☐ I have enclosed a Check or Money Order (payable to HSPA) in the amount of \$140.

If you are paying by credit card, please submit this application online at <https://dashboard.myhspa.org/applications>

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MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL BY A MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

SECTION 5: INSTRUCTIONS

This section must be completed by the **Manager or Supervisor** who directly oversaw the applicant's work and/or volunteer experience. To verify the required hours, you must hold a supervisory position above the applicant within the Sterile Processing department and have **physically witnessed** the applicant performing the duties listed. Only professional work contact information will be accepted; personal contact details are not permitted.

All five experience areas listed on this form are mandatory and must be completed within a Sterile Processing department. If the applicant gained experience at multiple facilities, a separate copy of this form must be completed by the Manager or Supervisor at each location, clearly indicating the number of hours completed in each area at that specific facility.

By completing this section, you confirm that the employee or volunteer named below has fulfilled the minimum requirement of 400 hours of hands-on experience necessary for certification. You also agree to verify this information if contacted. **The applicant is not permitted to complete any portion of this form. Any portion of the form completed by the applicant will result in automatic rejection of the application.**

Disclaimer: The 400 hours of hands-on experience required to apply for the CRCST examination must have been earned within the past 5 years. The subcategories listed under each section are examples of possible assignments to obtain the hours, and are meant to be used as a guide – they are not an exclusive list. The total hours in each section should be distributed across several subcategories.

PLEASE INITIAL EACH AREA OF EXPERIENCE COMPLETED BELOW (Typed Initials will Not Be Accepted):

INITIAL	Section 1: Decontamination Processes (120 Hours) Subcategories: Performance of Daily Quality Control Testing, Preparation, Equipment Functionality Check (e.g. Washers); Selection of Solutions and Cleaning Implements; Inspection of Washers and Washer Rack Arms for patency; Processing of Time Sensitive Items; Prioritization of Turnover Trays using schedule and verbal communication with the O.R. and Clean Side Leadership; Sorting of Complex Instrumentation; Interpretation of Manufacturer's IFUs; Selection of Washer Cycles; Traceability of Items and Documentation, as needed; Manual Instrument Cleaning Resource (e.g., visual inspection, borescope); Mechanical Cleaning Compatability (e.g. Washers, Ultrasonic Cleaners)
INITIAL	Section 2: Preparing & Packaging Instruments (120 Hours) Subcategories: Identification, Inspection/Testing of Instruments, Inspection/Testing of Containers & Wrapping Material, Assembly, Packaging Techniques (e.g. Pouches, Flat Wraps, Rigid Containers), Labeling
INITIAL	Section 3: Sterilization & Disinfection (120 Hours) Subcategories: High Temperature Sterilization Processes, Low Temperature Sterilization Processes, Logging & Record Keeping (e.g. Sterilization/ HLD, Biologicals/Incubation), Handling & Putting Away of Sterile Supplies, Automated/Manual Disinfection, Trouble Shooting (e.g. Aborted/Failed Cycles, Wet Loads, Repairs), Equipment Functionality Check (e.g. Sterilizers)
INITIAL	Section 4: Storage & Distribution (24 Hours) Subcategories: Clean & Sterile, Handling & Putting Away of Sterile Supplies, Rotating Supplies, Inventory & Restocking Carts/Shelves (e.g. Inventory Systems, Par Levels), Event Related Shelf Life/Expiration Dating, Cleaning Storage Shelves, Case Carts (e.g. Assembly, Pick Lists & Locator Systems)
INITIAL	Section 5: Quality Assurance Processes (16 Hours) Subcategories: Interpreting Manufacturer's IFUs (e.g. Device Inspection & Testing, Sterilizers), Standards, Regulations, Policies & Procedures, Documentation & Record Keeping (e.g. Management, Area Cleaning), Quality/Functionality Testing Processes (e.g. Sterilizer, Washer Testing, HLD), Familiarity with Routine Maintenance Guides for Equipment, Equipment Tracking

Printed Name of Applicant: _____

Dates of Experience (must have occurred within the past 5 years):

from (month/date/year) ____/____/____ to (month/date/year) ____/____/____

Name of Facility Where Experience Was Obtained: _____

Facility Address: _____

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code: _____

Is the Applicant a Current Employee of the Facility: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Printed Name of Manager/Supervisor: _____

Current Position/Title of Manager/Supervisor: _____

Select one: ☐ Educator ☐ Lead Tech ☐ Coordinator ☐ Supervisor ☐ Manager

☐ Director ☐ Chief ☐ Administrator ☐ Other _____

DESCRIBE

Work Phone (with extension): _____ Work Email: _____

I attest that the applicant listed above has completed the minimum 400 hours of hands-on experience required for the Certified Registered Central Service Technician (CRCST) certification. I further understand that I may be called upon to verify this information in further detail.

Signature (must be handwritten): _____ Date: _____