

Hay ch qa' sii'em siye'yu mukw mustimuxw. Vancouver Island University students, staff, faculty and administration acknowledge and thank the Snuneymuxw First Nation, Tla'amin First Nation, Qualicum First Nation and Cowichan Tribes for welcoming students, staff, faculty and administration to teach, learn, live and share educational experiences on the traditional territories of these nations.

Program Overview

In response to the need for trained medical device reprocessing technicians on Vancouver Island, this program provides knowledge and training appropriate for work in the medical device reprocessing field. Students gain theory and application of principles related to decontamination, sterilization, storage and distribution of equipment in a medical device reprocessing area. The program is intended for those who desire to play a critical role in health care and work as a member of a team in a fast-paced environment. The program will also provide a professional development opportunity for those currently working in medical device reprocessing departments who wish to update their skills and knowledge.

Career Opportunities

Medical device reprocessing departments provide a vital role in the medical environment, and there is a growing demand for people trained in medical device reprocessing. Graduates of this program will be prepared to work as medical device reprocessing technicians in a variety of settings from acute care hospitals to veterinary clinics.

Program Goals

This program prepares individuals to work as beginning level technicians in a medical device reprocessing department or operating room of a health care facility. More specifically, students who successfully complete the program will be able to:

Understand and apply theory and principles related to decontamination, assembly, sterilization, and storage and distribution in a medical device reprocessing (or similar) area;	Demonstrate required skills related to medical device reprocessing, communications, and professional deportment;
Examine own practice and behaviours, identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, and seek opportunities for learning and growth;	Work effectively as a team member in an organized, safe, and ethical manner to meet the needs of the facility;
Communicate effectively in writing and speaking;	Work in a cost-effective, ethical and legal manner;
Communicate effectively with co-workers.	

Recommended Personal Characteristics

Good command of spoken and written English;	Ability to attend to detail, to work accurately and neatly, and to manage time effectively;
Ability to work under close direction as well as ability to act with initiative as a member of a health care team;	Ability to work in a busy atmosphere and to respond quickly to requests;
Ability to adjust to work in a hospital setting (previous hospital experience may be an advantage);	Ability and willingness to adjust to shift work, including nights and weekends;
Reliable and dependable with good work habits.	

Program Format The program is offered on a full-time basis over 16 weeks. The program consists of 540 hours spread out over three courses. The program typically runs 4 days per week (practicum schedules will vary). The frequency of program delivery will be based on employer demand for trained graduates.

Program Content

Medical Device Reprocessing Technician: Theory (140 hours)

Provides students the theoretical knowledge required to work as entry-level Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) Technicians. With an emphasis on quality assurance and patient and workplace safety, students are introduced to the professional practice, role, context and function of the MDR Department and the responsibilities, duties and tasks of the MDR Technician. Students learn the principles of microbiology and infection prevention and control within the MDR Department and how to clean, disinfect, sort, inspect, assemble, wrap and pack, sterilize, and redistribute medical and surgical devices, and patient care equipment. Blended delivery (online/in person).

Medical Device Reprocessing Technician: Clinical Skills Basics (56 hours)

In order to prepare for placements in clinical settings, students will have an opportunity to practice valuable Medical Device Reprocessing clinical skills in a controlled setting, including wrapping and packaging skills; wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); instrument identification; assembly and decontamination practices; and sterilizer documentation skills. Students will also practice safe instrument handling; packaging for aseptic presentation, as well as safe storage practices that maintain device sterility.

Medical Device Reprocessing Technician: Clinical placement/Practicum (344 hours)

Provides students with the opportunity to integrate their knowledge and skills in the MDR setting. Learners are partnered with working technicians and have the opportunity to practice skills and develop basic competencies in all areas. Student learning is supported through skills assessment, post-clinical conferences, journaling, and learning activities to facilitate integration of knowledge and skills. Pre-requisites: Successful completion of MDRT 001 & MDRT 002.

Graduation Requirements To be eligible for the Certificate of Program Completion, the student must successfully complete all courses. Each course may be retaken only once. If a student fails a course twice, the student will not be eligible to re-enter the program. A minimum of 75% is required to pass an exam. Students who fail an exam will be permitted one re-write.

Attendance Students are required to attend all scheduled classes. Students not meeting the attendance requirements will not qualify to receive the program certificate.

Admission Requirements The following admission requirements must be met for entry to the program:

- Grade 12 graduation (or acceptable equivalent);
- Completion of Grade 12 English with a grade of "C" or better, OR assessment by Vancouver Island University;
- Successful completion of Medical Terminology (OSME 002) or equivalent course;
- Successful completion of Interpersonal Skills For Health Care Workers (HHIP 001) or equivalent course.

Notes on Admission:

- Absence of health problems that may affect ability to lift, stand for long periods, or perform repetitive movements;
- Absence of allergies to substances on the skin;
- Familiarity with computers and access to the Internet. NOTE: Some learning will take place online;
- A standard criminal record check and completed Immunization Requirements Form and recent TB skin test report (within 3 months of entering the program) are required prior to the first day of class. (NOTE: If the TB skin test is positive, a negative chest x-ray is required.) Details regarding immunization requirements are available on request.