

## Anesthesia Technologist/Technician

Anesthesia technicians and technologists are integral members of the anesthesia patient care team. Their role is to assist anesthesiologist and anesthesiologists in acquiring, preparing, and using the equipment and supplies required to administer anesthesia. In this role, they contribute to safe, efficient, and cost-effective anesthesia care.



### Career Description

Depending on individual knowledge, expertise and training, the tasks of the anesthesia technician and technologist may include equipment maintenance and servicing such as cleaning and sterilizing, assembling, calibrating and testing, troubleshooting, requisitioning and recording of inspections and maintenance, and operating a variety of mechanical, pneumatic, and electronic equipment used to monitor the patient undergoing anesthesia.

Anesthesia technologists with the appropriate training may perform inspection, maintenance, and on-site repairs.

The anesthesia technician or technologist may also be responsible for purchasing and distributing supplies and equipment and maintaining inventories and service records. Individuals functioning as anesthesia technicians or technologists should be capable of a level of self-direction and supervision commensurate with their training.



### Educational Programs

The ASATT National Standard Curriculum notes that students should receive instruction that encompasses:

- Didactic knowledge (cognitive and affective skills), 800 classroom hours
- Laboratory practice (cognitive and psychomotor skills), 240 hours
- Clinical experiences (cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills), 650 hours

As of fall 2008, the Web site of the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) listed five institutions that offer programs in anesthesia technology.



### Certification

The ASATT offers the only nationally recognized certification for anesthesia technicians (Cer AT). The first exam was administered in May 1996.

A Certification Test Development and Test Writing Committee evaluates and develops ASATT certification standards and exams in conjunction with Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), an organization that develops and administers certification exams. The Certification Test Development and Test Writing Committee consists of anesthesiologists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, a professor of anesthesia education, a corporate representative, and certified anesthesia technicians and technologists. The ASATT is a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), a nationally recognized organization that establishes standards for credentialing examination programs.

Certification is granted for a 2-year period. To maintain certification, a minimum of 20 continuing education contact hours (CE/CH) must be obtained and submitted to the ASATT Certification and Recertification Review Committee. At the end of each 2-year recertification period, certified anesthesia technicians must reapply for certification.

Certification for the technologist level has been developed, with the first exam administered in 2001. The certified anesthesia technologist must submit 30 continuing education contact hours (CE/CH) relevant to the field of anesthesia technology at the end of each 2-year recertification period.



### Inquiries

American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians

7044 South 13th Street

Oak Creek, WI 53154-1429

414 908-4942 ext 450

414768-8001 Fax

E-mail: [customercare@asatt.org](mailto:customercare@asatt.org)

[www.asatt.org](http://www.asatt.org)