

# Anesthesia

Certified anesthesia technologists and technicians are vital members of the anesthesia patient care team. Their role is to assist licensed anesthesia providers in the acquisition, preparation and application of equipment, medications and supplies required for the monitoring and administration of 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 certified anesthesia technologist and technician may include:

- Support to the anesthesia providers for routine and complex surgical cases
- Equipment maintenance and servicing such as cleaning and sterilizing, assembling, calibrating and testing, troubleshooting, requisitioning and recording of inspections and maintenance
- Operating a variety of mechanical, pneumatic, and electronic equipment used to monitor the patient undergoing anesthesia.

With the appropriate training, the practitioner may also perform inspection, maintenance, and on-site repairs.

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

Certified Anesthesia Technologists are generally employed at a higher level of service and management including lead, supervisory and administrative positions. The technologist assists in the care of the patient at a higher level as well.

## Educational Programs

The National Standard Curriculum of the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT) notes that students should receive instruction that encompasses:

### I

- A. Didactic: 800 hours
- B. Clinical: 800 hours
- C. Total Minimum Didactic and Clinical Hours required for AS Degree = 1,600 hours (includes General Education)

### II

- A. Prerequisite Courses (General Education) for AS Degree: 30 units
- B. Anesthesia Technology Courses (Certificate of Achievement): 30 units
- C. Minimum required for completion = 60 units total

## Certification

The ASATT offers the only nationally recognized certification for anesthesia technicians (Cer AT); the first examination 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 Test Writing Committee consists of an anesthesiologist, 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.

Effective July 15, 2015, the technician certification exam will no longer be available. In addition, after July 2015, all candidates seeking to take the technologist exam must have graduated from an approved program.

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 offered since 2001, when the first exam was administered. 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

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## Program Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in collaboration with:  
Accreditation Review Committee for the Anesthesia Technologist/ Technician