Integrated Central Service Technician Training Program
A Supported Career and Academic Pathway for Adults

The Central Service Technician Program at LaGuardia Community College prepares adult students for work as a central service technician in the central service department of a hospital where all equipment is sterilized and prepared for use.

Historically, lack of academic preparation as well as family and work responsibilities have prevented some students from successfully completing certification training programs. The Integrated CST Program is designed especially for non-traditional, adult students facing economic and educational disadvantages that can impede completion of this rigorous professional course of study. It is modeled on Washington State’s Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) initiative, which helps underserved populations develop basic educational and vocational skills simultaneously in order to move into careers that lead to better paying jobs.

Applicants must have a high school or GED diploma and have tested at a 7th grade reading level or above. A majority of students are incumbent workers who are required to pass the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM) certification exam in order to advance in their career while other students use this training program as a gateway into the profession.

Utilizing a co-teaching model, a basic skills educator and a medical skills instructor jointly deliver a supported content-based curriculum. Integrated instruction simultaneously develops the academic and technical competencies necessary for successful completion of the CST training and the CST IAHCSMM certification exam.

**Vocational Training Class**
Students attend a three-month vocational class that meets 9 hours per week. Vocational instruction begins with building students knowledge of foundational content including microbiology and anatomy and physiology before introducing career specific content. Regular assessments include practical skills exams and multiple-choice tests that mimic the certification exam. At the end of the course all students take the CST IAHCSMM certification exam. (Students who are not incumbent workers participate in a 400-hour work placement at an area hospital.)

**Academic Support Class**
During the hour before the vocational class, students work with the adult education instructor to both review and deepen their comprehension and mastery of training materials and concepts. The class is also an opportunity for students to develop solid study strategies and academic skills that will serve them in their future careers and academic endeavors. Course content is approached with non-traditional instructional strategies that address multiple learning styles and areas of difficulty with developmental writing assignments, group work and discussions. In addition to regularly meeting with the content teacher, the adult education instructor participates in the vocational classes in order to monitor student progress, to assist with formative assessment, and to develop relevant curriculum for the academic support class.
This program is funded by AARP and is a collaboration between Career Ladders in Allied Health Programs and the Pre-College Academic Programming Department in the Adult and Continuing Education Division of LaGuardia Community College/CUNY. For more information, call (718) 482-5031.