

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Sterilising Technology (Level 4)

Qualification number: 3219

Date of review: 22 September 2022

This report refers to all graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2021**

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

This qualification is intended as the minimum qualification for sterile services or endoscopy technicians. The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates being able to:

- Apply knowledge of reprocessing standards to the reprocessing of reusable medical devices to the relevant standards in a clinical context
- Apply infection prevention and control and safe working practices for each stage of the reprocessing cycle to prevent injury to self, transmission of contaminants and damage to reusable medical devices
- Apply communication and problem-solving skills to the reprocessing of reusable medical devices.

The threshold statement is the prescribed Graduate Profile Outcomes (GPOs) of the qualification.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6025	Te Pūkenga trading as Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient

Introduction

This 60 - credit Level 4 Certificate is the minimal qualification for sterilisation services and endoscopy technicians working independently in a clinical environment. It is available nationally by extramural study through Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (Toi Ohomai) who is the sole provider. Learners normally study the programme part-time over 12 months. All are employed in a range of health environments, including medical, dental, and veterinary facilities. They are expected to have worked in the industry for at least six months before enrolling, and the programme of study is designed to build on this work experience.

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The programme of study is required to adhere to the relevant standards applicable to sterilisation technology and infection prevention and control (namely AS/NZS 4187 and 4815, plus NZS 8134.3). Spaulding's classification for defining classes of reusable medical devices and the level of processing required for each class is mandatory.

The qualification provides a pathway to the New Zealand Diploma in Sterilising Technology (Level 5) [Ref: 3220].

This qualification, along with those at Level 3 and Level 5, is currently under review. As the qualification developer, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (TOPNZ) is currently engaged in extensive consultation with the industry.

Up to 31 December 2021, there have been 101 graduates of this qualification. This is the first consistency review of this qualification.

Evidence

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes.

Examples of evidence included:

- Processes of ongoing programme review involving industry professionals
- Careful programme design based on prescribed professional standards
- Moderation processes and results
- Feedback from graduates and employers about their perceptions of the graduate outcomes attained
- Strong working relationships with the professional body, the New Zealand Sterile Science Association (NZSSA).

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

The provider provided a well triangulated portfolio of evidence demonstrating that their graduates meet the required graduate outcomes.

Special Focus (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

None

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Examples of good practice

- The programme is clearly designed to meet the requirements of the profession with input from the national professional body - NZSSA
- The programme of study builds on learners' work experience with assessments designed to support students in developing portfolios of work aligned to the Graduate Profile
- Employers are provided with course outlines.

Issues and concerns

None

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

The suite of qualifications is presently under review with extensive participation from the professional body and other stakeholders. Current feedback about this qualification is generally positive.