



# UTILITY TREE TRIMMER

## Technical Diploma Program Code: 30-001-4 Total Credits: 16

The Utility Tree Trimmer program is a one-year technical diploma embedded in the Arborist Technician associate degree. Students are trained in introductory electrical awareness and safety, electrical hardware identification, tree pruning, chainsaw use, climbing and related aerial tree work, tree identification, pesticide handling and application, and tree biology. Teamwork and crew leadership are also emphasized. The program includes hands-on exploration and learning, and many classes are outdoors. Our unique aerial component ensures students gain experience while working safely in trees.

**Estimated tuition and fees:** [mstc.edu/programcosts](http://mstc.edu/programcosts)

### ACADEMIC ADVISOR

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor, call 715.422.5300. Academic advisors will travel to other campuses as necessary to accommodate student needs. For more information about advising, visit [mstc.edu/advising](http://mstc.edu/advising).

### NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Complete the following steps to prepare for your New Student Advising appointment with your academic advisor:

- ☐ Submit a Mid-State application at [mstc.edu/apply](http://mstc.edu/apply).
- ☐ Send official transcripts to:  
Mid-State Technical College  
Student Services  
1001 Centerpoint Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481
- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). Mid-State's Financial Aid team is available to assist with your FAFSA application and to answer your financial aid questions. Contact Financial Aid or schedule an appointment at [mstc.edu/financial-aid](http://mstc.edu/financial-aid).
- ☐ Set up student MyCampus account at [mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance](http://mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance).
- ☐ Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at [mstc.edu/advising](http://mstc.edu/advising).



[mstc.edu](http://mstc.edu) • 888.575.6782 • TTY: 711



**ADAMS CAMPUS**  
401 North Main  
Adams, WI 53910

**MARSHFIELD CAMPUS**  
2600 West 5th Street  
Marshfield, WI 54449

**STEVENS POINT  
DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**  
1001 Centerpoint Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS CAMPUS**  
500 32nd Street North  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

# CAREER PATHWAY • BEGIN AT ANY POINT



## CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

### CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

- Certifications and Licenses
- High School Credit
- Military Experience
- National/Standardized Exams
- Transfer Credit
- Work and Life Experience

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at [mstc.edu/cpl](https://mstc.edu/cpl).

## TECHNICAL DIPLOMA

### UTILITY TREE TRIMMER

Technical Diploma • 16 Credits

#### Start Your Career

- Utility Arborist
- Tree Trimmer
- Pruner

## ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

### ARBORIST TECHNICIAN

Associate in Applied Science (AAS) • 60-61 Credits

#### Start Your Career

- Arborist (commercial, utility, government)
- Landscape Contractor
- Plant Health Care Technician
- Apprenticeship

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE OPTIONS

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer agreements with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information and additional opportunities, visit [mstc.edu/transfer](https://mstc.edu/transfer).

## OTHER OPTIONS

### RELATED PROGRAMS

- Agribusiness Science & Technology
- Agronomy Technician
- Farm Operation

### APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Arborist Apprenticeship

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Utility Tree Trimmer graduate, to be able to:

- Identify woody plants by common and scientific name.
- Apply tree biology for arboricultural maintenance practices.
- Adhere to industry safety standards.

TECHNICAL SKILLS ATTAINMENT

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has implemented a requirement that all technical colleges measure outcomes attained by students. This requirement is called Technical Skills Attainment (TSA). The main objective of TSA is to ensure graduates have the technical skills needed by employers. Students are notified of TSA reporting in the final few courses in the program.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit [mstc.edu/studenthandbook](http://mstc.edu/studenthandbook) to view Mid-State’s student handbook, which contains information about admissions, enrollment, appeals processes, services for people with disabilities, financial aid, graduation, privacy, Mid-State’s Student Code of Conduct, and technology.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The GPS for Student Success course is required for all Mid-State program students and is recommended to be completed before obtaining 12 credits. (Not counted in the total credit value for this program.) Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your program advisor for more information.

GPS for Student Success

10890102 ..... 1 credit

Integrate necessary skills for student success by developing an academic plan, identifying interpersonal attributes for success, adopting efficient and effective learning strategies, and utilizing Mid-State resources, policies, and processes. This course is recommended to be completed prior to obtaining 12 credits and is a graduation requirement unless you receive an exemption from your program advisor.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

The following courses may be recommended or required if the student does not achieve minimum Accuplacer scores.

College Reading and Writing 1

10831104 ..... 3 credits

Provides learners with opportunities to develop and expand reading and writing skills to prepare for college-level academic work. Students will employ critical reading strategies to improve comprehension, analysis, and retention of texts. Students will apply the writing process to produce well-developed, coherent, and unified written work.

Pre-Algebra

10834109 ..... 3 credits

Provides an introduction to algebra. Includes operations on real numbers, solving linear equations, percent and proportion, and an introduction to polynomials and statistics. Prepares students for elementary algebra and subsequent algebra-related courses.

SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION			
Term			8 credits
10001118	Landscape Plant Identification		2
10001124	Arborist Skills Introduction		2
10001133	Chainsaw Safety and Operation		2
10001173	Pruning for Structure		2
Term			8 credits
10001102	Plant Health Care Applicator		2
10001108	Electric Systems & Safety in Arboriculture		1
10001110	Tree Biology		2
10001125	Arboriculture Operations 1		2
10001150	Workplace Communication in Arboriculture		1
			Total credits 16

☑ This course has options available to receive credit for prior learning (CPL) or work experience. Visit the website at [mstc.edu/cpl](http://mstc.edu/cpl) or contact your advisor for details.

- Please Note:
- This curriculum sequence is only for student planning. Actual student schedules will vary depending on course availability.
  - Program completion time may vary based on student scheduling and course availability. For details, go to [mstc.edu/schedule](http://mstc.edu/schedule).

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **Arboriculture Operations 1**

**10001125 .....2 credits**

Emphasizes practice of skills associated with being safe & productive members of crews engaged in basic tree work/ arboricultural operations. Topics include introductory elements of pruning & removal techniques, equipment operations, & work site set-up.

*Prerequisites: Arborist Skills Introduction 10001124 and Pruning for Structure 10001173*

## **Arborist Skills Introduction**

**10001124 .....2 credits**

A hands-on introduction to the basic techniques employed by arborists engaged in performing aerial tree care operations. Topics include canopy access methods, arborist gear usage, safety considerations/risk recognition, and knot selection.

## **Chainsaw Safety and Operation**

**10001133 .....2 credits**

This course will familiarize students with common chainsaw practices employed within the arboricultural industry, including safe operation, routine maintenance, common cutting techniques, and use of personal protective equipment. Students will operate and maintain chainsaws. Additionally, field exercises will simulate tree removal operations.

## **Electric Systems & Safety in Arboriculture**

**10001108 .....1 credit**

Students will gain familiarity with electrical distribution and transmission system hardware identification. Industry safety best practices and standards related to performing tree work near energized conductors will be explored.

## **Landscape Plant Identification ☑**

**10001118 .....2 credits**

Introduces students to woody trees/shrubs and herbaceous plants commonly used in residential and commercial landscapes in Wisconsin. The three plant groups covered in this course are woody trees/shrubs, herbaceous perennial plants, and herbaceous annual plants. Identification, installation, and maintenance are covered for each plant group.

## **Plant Health Care Applicator ☑**

**10001102 .....2 credits**

Focuses on training to successfully pass the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection's pesticide applicator exam (which will be proctored in this class). Additionally, students are familiarized with chemical handling, mixing, calibration, and application via field exercises.

## **Pruning for Structure ☑**

**10001173 .....2 credits**

Focuses on the art and science of tree pruning. Topics include tree structure, introductory biology, pruning cuts, and young tree training. Students will gain hands-on experience performing tree pruning.

## **Tree Biology**

**10001110 .....2 credits**

This course provides an overview of the major structures and functions of woody plants. The overall objective is to provide a basic understanding of these complex organisms, equipping you with a solid foundation to diagnose myriad health & structural abnormalities you'll encounter. Major course themes include plant functions, physiology, adaptations, root systems, planting, & basic risk assessment.

## **Workplace Communication in Arboriculture**

**10001150 .....1 credit**

This course introduces students to the key concepts of effective and impactful communications in the arboriculture industry. Students will investigate the diversity of commonalities and differences among people and how they relate to improving personal and organizational effectiveness at work.