AUTO COLLISION REPAIR & REFINISH TECHNICIAN

Technical Diploma
Program Code: 31-405-1
Total Credits: 17

Mid-State's Auto Collision Repair & Refinish Technician program is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on work and want to build skills in both structural and cosmetic repair and refinishing. Graduates are prepared for entry-level positions in auto body and collision repair shops, working with damaged vehicles and industry-standard equipment.

The program provides hands-on learning in a real shop environment using actual vehicles and professional tools, including frame measuring systems, welders, paint prep tools, and spray booths. Students practice welding, panel repair, surface preparation, and refinishing techniques while building the skills needed to work safely and effectively in today's collision repair industry. The program emphasizes safety, teamwork, and the workflow of a modern collision service center, helping students build confidence with the equipment and tasks they will see on the job.

To learn more about this program, visit **mstc.edu/programs**.

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**.

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**.
- Send official transcripts to:
  Mid-State Technical College
  Student Services
  500 32nd Street North
  Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **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**.
- Set up student MyCampus account at **mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance**.
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at **mstc.edu/advising**.

CAREER PATHWAY

Career pathways help you build your education step by step. Each stage offers one or more credentials that are recognized by employers and lead to real jobs—and you can keep building toward your career goals as you go.

Begin at any point.

Prior Learning

Credit for Prior Learning

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

Learn about Credit for Prior Learning at **mstc.edu/cpl**.

High School Credit

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at **mstc.edu/dc**.

Technical Diploma

- Auto Collision Repair & Refinish Technician (17 Credits)
  Start Your Career: Auto Body Repair Technician, Automotive Refinishing/Paint Technician, Collision Estimator/Damage Appraiser

Bachelor's Degree

For those interested in continuing their education, Mid-State offers transfer guides with various four-year colleges and universities. For more information, visit **mstc.edu/transfer**.

Other Options

Related Programs: Automotive Maintenance Technician, Automotive Technician, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician Assistant

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as an Auto Collision Repair & Refinish Technician graduate, to be able to:

- Repair structural and non-structural vehicle damage using industry-standard tools and techniques.
- Perform welding and basic metal fabrication processes used in collision repair.
- Prepare vehicle surfaces for refinishing through sanding, masking, and priming procedures.
- Apply automotive paint and refinishing materials using professional spray equipment.
- Interpret repair estimates and manufacturer repair information.
- Follow industry safety standards and environmental regulations.
- Demonstrate professional communicatioin and teamwork skills in a service center environment.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Students are required to purchase three "Mid-State Auto Collision Repair & Refinish Technician Student" uniform shirts. These shirts are available the first week of class for approximately $30 each. Students are also required to wear safety glasses at all times in the lab. Acquisition of safety glasses is the responsibility of the student.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Student 'tool kits' available first day of class. Tool Kits contain specific tools directly related to Auto Collision and student accounts will be billed for approximately $550.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Visit **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. Some students are exempt from this requirement. Please see your academic advisor for more information.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AS NEEDED

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

MULTIPLE MEASURES

Students can place into courses using high school GPA and completed classes. Placement can be determined in the following ways:

- **Multiple Measures Writing (MMW)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school writing courses with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Reading (MMR)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school literature courses with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 1 (MMM_1)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school math (Algebra 1 or equivalent) with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Math 2 (MMM_2)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 2.0 credits of high school math including Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 1 (MMS_1)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school lab science course with a "C" or better
- **Multiple Measures Science 2 (MMS_2)**
  High school GPA of 2.6 & successful completion of 1.0 credit of high school chemistry with a "C" or better

Past high school and college transcripts are used in making course placement decisions.

SAMPLE FULL-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

Auto Collision Repair & Refinish Technician • 17 Total Credits

Term 10 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
30405322	Auto Body Mechanics	No	1
32404340	Intro to Electricity for the Automotive Industry	Yes	1
30405323	Foundations of Painting	No	2
31804305	Applied Mathematics	No	2
30405324	Dent Repair	No	2
32404375	Service Practices in Automotive Industry	Yes	1
10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 7 Credits

Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
31442320	Welding Foundations 1	Yes	1
30405326	Advanced Painting	No	2
30405327	Damage Analysis & Estimating	No	2
32806351	Applied Science	No	2

Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit **mstc.edu/cpl** or contact your academic advisor for details.
- 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**.
- Get the latest updates online at **mstc.edu**.

Advanced Painting
30405326
2 credits
This course builds upon foundational refinishing skills and prepares students for advanced automotive paint application and finish correction. Students will refine color-matching, blending, and custom finish techniques while working with complex substrates and multi-stage systems. Emphasis is placed on diagnosing finish defects, advanced spray-gun setup, and the use of cutting-edge paint technologies, including water-borne and high-solids systems. Professional detailing, polishing, and final inspection processes are also covered.

Applied Mathematics
31804305
2 credits
Students taking Applied Mathematics make and convert various measurements. Students use formulas to solve problems. They compute dimensions of geometric shapes. Students use statistical tools to represent and analyze data. They analyze various financial situations. Students use basic right triangle trigonometry to solve problems. In each topic area, students solve application problems.

Applied Science
32806351
2 credits
This survey course in basic physics is designed for students in the Automotive Technician, Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician, and Precision Machining Technician programs. Topics have been specially selected to provide students with basic support material for principles applied in the above listed programs. Topics to be covered include basic measurement skills; problem solving; motion; forces and energy transfer in linear and rotary systems; properties of solids, liquids and gases; temperature and heat; and basic DC electricity.

Auto Body Mechanics
30405322
1 credit
This course introduces students to the fundamental mechanical systems and repair techniques used in the auto collision industry. Emphasis is placed on safe disassembly and reassembly procedures, structural and mechanical component alignment, and basic electrical and mechanical diagnostics. Students will apply industry-standard practices to return vehicles to manufacturer specifications.

Damage Analysis & Estimating
30405327
2 credits
This course introduces students to the principles and practices of vehicle damage analysis and repair estimating used in the collision repair industry. Students learn to identify structural and non-structural damage, calculate labor and material costs, and prepare professional estimates using industry software. Emphasis is placed on accurate assessment, customer communication, and insurance processes consistent with manufacturer and industry standards.

Dent Repair
30405324
2 credits
This course develops the skills required to repair minor and moderate vehicle body damage using industry-approved techniques. Students will perform metal straightening, filler application, and paintless dent removal (PDR) using specialized tools and repair materials. Emphasis is placed on panel evaluation, surface restoration, and safety practices that ensure high-quality cosmetic repair and structural integrity.

Foundations of Painting
30405323
2 credits
This course introduces students to the foundational principles and techniques of automotive refinishing. Students learn to prepare surfaces for painting, mix and apply primers and topcoats, and perform basic color-matching and blending. Emphasis is placed on safety, surface preparation, spray-gun setup, and the use of industry-standard materials and equipment. Students will complete refinishing projects that reflect real-world collision repair standards.

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.

Intro to Electricity for the Automotive Industry
32404340
1 credit
Introduces learners to electrical measurement tools and techniques. Includes both hands-on experience and theory on topics including multimeter operation, Ohm's Law, wiring diagram interpretation, and circuit testing. Content is focused on tools and procedures commonly used in automotive, and diesel/heavy equipment industries. Learners will have the opportunity to earn NC3 multimeter certification during this course.

Service Practices in Automotive Industry
32404375
1 credit
Introduces the learner to common tools, terminology, and service practices in the transportation field. Covers safety, environmental concerns, and basic customer relations. Service shop management practices and the use of automated work order, parts ordering, and time management concepts are included.

Welding Foundations 1
31442320
1 credit
An introduction to fundamental welding techniques with an emphasis on safe work habits that covers the processes of FCAW, GMAW, and OXY-Fuel cutting. Classroom instruction paired with lab activities are designed to provide fundamental skills in each of the welding processes covered in the class.