

TREE HEALTH SPECIALIST

Technical Diploma

Program Code: 30-001-8

Total Credits: 19

Students are trained in workplace communication, safe pesticide handling and application, tree biology, common urban tree diseases, common insect pests, tree identification, tree root management, and urban soils. The program includes hands-on exploration and learning, and many classes feature outdoor learning. Our unique focus on below ground tree health and soil characteristics allows our graduates to get to the root of tree health issues rather than just treating above ground signs and symptoms.

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.

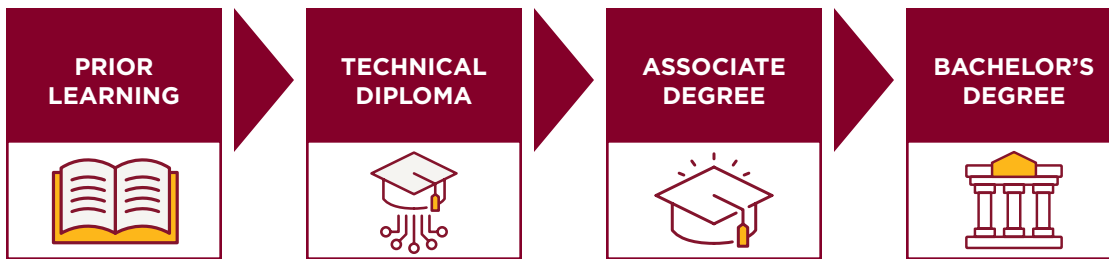
mstc.edu • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



Adams Campus • Marshfield Campus • Stevens Point Downtown Campus • Wisconsin Rapids Campus • Virtual Campus • AMETA® Center

Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President - Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715-422-5325 • AAEO@mstc.edu. 3/2026-AC

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

- Tree Health Specialist (19 Credits)
Start Your Career: Tree Trimmer, Plant Health Care Technician, Grounds Worker, Tree Care Specialist, Diagnostic Arborist

Associate Degree

- Arborist Technician (61-62 Credits)
Start Your Career: Arborist (commercial, utility, government), Landscape Contractor, Plant Health Care Technician, Tree Trimmer/Climber, Utility Vegetation Management Technician

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: Agribusiness Science & Technology, Agronomy Technician, Farm Operation

Apprenticeship Opportunity: Arborist

OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Tree Health Specialist graduate, to be able to:

- Identify woody plants by common and scientific name.
- Evaluate site characteristics and understand how they impact tree health.
- Confirm identification of common insect pests and diseases of urban trees.
- Effectively communicate within the professional team and with clients.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Students enrolled in the Tree Health Specialist program must be able to meet the established technical standards identified below, which reflect those found in the profession.

- Ability to lift, carry, and transport equipment, tools, climbing gear, and materials up to 50 pounds (or more) with occasional to frequent exertion.
- Ability to detect and respond to emergencies, hazards, and changing conditions in outdoor and elevated work environments (trees, heights, weather, power lines).
- Sufficient endurance, strength, mobility, balance, flexibility, and coordination to perform tasks such as tree climbing, aerial rescue, ground-based rigging, working at heights, and emergency procedures.
- Sufficient sensory (auditory, visual, tactile, smell) ability to assess tree health, detect equipment malfunctions, evaluate environmental conditions, communicate in noisy outdoor settings, and ensure safety of self and others.

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

Tree Health Specialist • 19 Total Credits

Term 8 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10001118	Landscape Plant Identification	Yes	2
	10001115	Root Management	No	2
	10001120	Tree Disease	No	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1
Term 11 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10001110	Tree Biology	No	2
	10001102	Plant Health Care Applicator	Yes	2
	10001150	Workplace Communication in Arboriculture	No	1
	10001113	Landscape Entomology	No	3
	10001198	Urban Soils	No	3

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.

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.

Landscape Entomology**10001113****3 credits**

An introductory study of important insects and arthropods commonly associated with landscape plants in the Midwest. Topics include classification and identification, diagnostics, damage assessment, and control strategies.

Prerequisites: Landscape Plant Identification 10001118 and Plant Health Care Applicator 10001102

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.

Root Management**10001115****2 credits**

This course is an exploration of the landscape below ground, focusing on woody plant roots. Students will uncover different root types, root systems, and how roots uptake water and elements. Hands-on class activities include experimenting with several techniques of root excavation, assessment, and pruning. Critical thinking and relevant skills in properly managing roots in the urban environment will be discussed.

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.

Tree Disease**10001120****3 credits**

Investigates common urban tree diseases of the Great Lakes region and their effect on tree health. Provides a diagnostic framework for identifying biotic and abiotic causes of urban tree decline. Explores appropriate management techniques and control plans used in arboriculture.

Urban Soils**10001198****3 credits**

Examines concepts of soil formation and management. Discussion and activities explore soil physical, chemical, and biological interactions relating to soil formation and management. Specifically focuses on the influence that urban soils have on urban trees.

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.