

# AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

## Technical Diploma

**Program Code: 31-404-3**

**Total Credits: 28**

Mid-State's Automotive Maintenance Technician program prepares students for entry-level automotive repair work with special emphasis on mechanical relationships, basic engine performance, and suspension systems. You'll learn from industry experts to test and maintain basic automotive systems. You'll also apply the techniques you learn in the classroom to an automotive shop laboratory setting, with access to state-of-the-art hand and power tools and complex electrical diagnostic equipment. Graduates will have the confidence to start their careers in automotive repair facilities and retail service centers.

To learn more about this program, visit [mstc.edu/programs](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://mstc.edu/financial-aid).
- Set up student MyCampus account at [mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance](https://mstc.edu/mycampus-assistance).
- Schedule a New Student Advising appointment at [mstc.edu/advising](https://mstc.edu/advising).

[mstc.edu](https://mstc.edu) • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



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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](https://mstc.edu/cpl).

### **High School Credit**

- High School Dual Credit
- Mid-State Fast Track

Learn about High School Credit at [mstc.edu/dc](https://mstc.edu/dc).

### **Technical Diploma**

- Automotive Maintenance Technician (28 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Automotive Apprentice, Automotive Parts Sales/Service, Automotive Service Attendant, Parts Associate, Tire and Lube Technician
- Automotive Technician (60 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Automotive and Light Truck Technician, Automotive Machine Shop Technician, Automotive Master Mechanic, Automotive Parts Salesperson, Engine 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](https://mstc.edu/transfer).

### **Other Options**

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

## OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as an Automotive Maintenance Technician graduate, to be able to:

- Diagnose, repair, and service brake systems.
- Diagnose, repair, and service electrical/electronic systems.
- Diagnose, repair, and service drivetrain systems.

## 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. Faculty will let students know when and how the TSA is being assessed in the program.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Students are required to purchase three “Mid-State Automotive 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

Students need to purchase a Fluke 177 or Fluke 88V multimeter and test lead set before the start of the second term. These are available for purchase through the campus Bookstore for approximately \$270.

## 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. 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

### Automotive Maintenance Technician • 28 Total Credits

Term 16 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10457119	Fabrication Fundamentals 1	No	1
	31442320	Welding Foundations 1	Yes	1
	31442321	Welding Foundations 2	No	1
	32404307	Suspension & Steering Systems	Yes	5
	32404308	Braking Systems-Automotive	Yes	5
	32404340	Intro to Electricity for the Automotive Industry	Yes	1
	32404375	Service Practices in Automotive Industry	Yes	1
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 12 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	32404311	Electrical Systems-Auto	No	5
	32404324	Engine Repair	No	5
	32404330	Applied Fluid Power	Yes	2

#### Please Note

- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) options are available for some courses. You can visit [mstc.edu/cpl](http://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](http://mstc.edu/schedule).
- Get the latest updates online at [mstc.edu](http://mstc.edu).

## SAMPLE PART-TIME CURRICULUM OPTION

### Automotive Maintenance Technician • 28 Total Credits

Term 8 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	32404307	Suspension & Steering Systems	Yes	5
	32404340	Intro to Electricity for the Automotive Industry	Yes	1
	32404375	Service Practices in Automotive Industry	Yes	1
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1

Term 7 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	32404311	Electrical Systems-Auto	No	5
	32404330	Applied Fluid Power	Yes	2

Term 7 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	31442320	Welding Foundations 1	Yes	1
	31442321	Welding Foundations 2	No	1
	32404308	Braking Systems-Automotive	Yes	5

Term 6 Credits	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
	10457119	Fabrication Fundamentals 1	No	1
	32404324	Engine Repair	No	5

### **Applied Fluid Power**

**32404330**

**2 credits**

Learners employ basic principles and application of pumps, compressors, motors, valves, seals, packing, and conductors to demonstrate the advantage of hydraulic and pneumatic systems as well as the physical properties of liquids and air. The intent is to identify various parts of a circuit and to illustrate standard liquid power components through laboratory experiments.

### **Braking Systems-Automotive**

**32404308**

**5 credits**

Learners employ fundamentals of vehicle braking systems including drum, disc, hydraulic and air systems to perform on-vehicle repairs. Includes instruction on power and anti-skid systems with emphasis on troubleshooting and component replacement and reconditioning.

### **Electrical Systems-Auto**

**32404311**

**5 credits**

Learners employ principles of construction, function, and operation of starting motors, charging systems, and controls. Covers basic electronics, including capacitance, inductance, series and parallel circuits, magnetism and Ohm's Law, wiring schematics, soldering techniques, and use of diagnostic equipment. Vehicle control and accessory systems are studied.

*Prerequisite: Intro to Electricity for the Automotive Industry 32404340*

### **Engine Repair**

**32404324**

**5 credits**

Learners practice diagnosis, reconditioning and repair of cylinder heads, valve train components, and engine blocks and related components. Provides a general overview of engine types and operating characteristics. Covers engine support systems such as the lubrication systems, cooling system, ignition system, fuel and exhaust systems.

### **Fabrication Fundamentals 1**

**10457119**

**1 credit**

An introduction to structural shapes and sheet metal fabrication. Presents fabrication techniques, metal selection, and layout, cutting, bending, drilling, threading, and joining using manual equipment and techniques. Information is presented to the student and followed up with lab activities to provide a hands-on experience. Emphasizes developing an understanding of the tools, techniques, safe work habits, and application of sheet metal fabrication skills.

### **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.

### **Suspension & Steering Systems**

**32412309**

**5 credits**

Analyze construction and working principles of chassis components. Includes frames, suspension systems, steering gears and linkages, wheels and tires, and wheel alignment. Learners practice on-vehicle diagnosis and repair of suspension and steering systems.

### **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.

### **Welding Foundations 2**

**31442321**

**1 credit**

An introduction to fundamental welding techniques with an emphasis on safe work habits that covers the processes of GTAW, SMAW and Plasma cutting. Classroom instruction paired with lab activities are designed to provide fundamental skills in each of the welding processes covered in the class.