

# COSMETOLOGY

## Technical Diploma

**Program Code: 31-502-1**

**Total Credits: 34**

Combined with successful completion of the state licensing exam, Mid-State's Cosmetology program provides the theory and practice you need to build your cosmetology career. Students study hair cutting, perming/relaxing, and styling as well as facial and scalp treatments, barbering, makeup, pedicuring, manicuring, and more. The program emphasizes sanitation and safety. You'll learn from experienced instructors, guest lectures, demonstrations, industry representatives, and platform artists. Your practice will progress from working on mannequins to providing services in the on-campus salon. Many other hands-on opportunities are available, including job shadowing.

Mid-State's Cosmetology program prepares students to obtain the required licensure to be employed/practice in the state of Wisconsin. The College does not guarantee its curriculum matches the requirements for preparation, examination, or licensure for other states.

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



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](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**

- Cosmetology (34 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Cosmetologist, Esthetician, Hair Stylist, Makeup Artist, Manicurist/Pedicurist

### **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: Barber Technologist, Nail Technician

## OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Cosmetology graduate, to be able to:

- Apply safety and sanitation procedures.
- Adhere to the current Wisconsin administrative codes and statutes for cosmetology.
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills for success.
- Perform hair cutting services.
- Perform shampoo services.
- Perform skin care services.
- Perform texture services.
- Perform hair color services.
- Demonstrate hair styling and finishing techniques.
- Perform nail services.
- Develop strategies to market products and services.

## 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.

Most classes are offered in a face-to-face format. Theory of General Sciences is offered only in an online format. Work on mannequins, other students, and in an on-campus salon completes the practical component of your training.

Students must purchase a kit of required tools and supplies. The cost of the kit is approximately \$1,700 and must be purchased for use on the first day of class.

Students who successfully complete the program will meet the Wisconsin requirement of 1,550 hours of theoretical and practical instruction. Financial aid and scholarships are available to those who qualify.

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Students must have good fine motor skills, especially finger dexterity, as well as good hand-eye coordination and 20/40 vision in best eye with 70 degrees to each side for peripheral vision, as determined by the Department of Transportation.

## PROGRAM PROGRESSION

Please note that the ability to repeat courses is dependent upon availability of courses. Students may be required to apply for program re-entry in order to repeat courses.

## 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

### Cosmetology • 34 Total Credits

Term	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
15 Credits	31502334	Hairstyling	No	3
	31502335	Haircutting	No	3
	31502336	Chemical Texture Services	No	3
	31502337	Nail Technology	No	1
	31502340	Facials	No	1
	31502347	Haircolor	No	3
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1
Term	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
13 Credits	31502316	Theory of General Sciences	No	1
	31502338	Salon Operations	No	1
	31502342	Capstone Experience	No	3
	31502343	Salon Client Relations	No	4
	31502344	Salon Ecology & Industry Trends	No	4
Term	Course Number	Course Name	CPL	Credits
6 Credits	31502349	Salon Communication & Management	No	3
	31502350	Salon Sales & Marketing	No	3

#### 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

Cosmetology • 34 Total Credits

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>9 Credits</b>	31502316	Theory of General Sciences	No	1
	31502335	Haircutting	No	3
	31502336	Chemical Texture Services	No	3
	31502338	Salon Operations	No	1
	10890102	GPS for Student Success	Yes	1
<b>8 Credits</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	31502340	Facials	No	1
	31502343	Salon Client Relations	No	4
	31502347	Haircolor	No	3
<b>7 Credits</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	31502334	Hairstyling	No	3
	31502344	Salon Ecology & Industry Trends	No	4
<b>7 Credits</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	31502337	Nail Technology	No	1
	31502349	Salon Communication & Management	No	3
	31502342	Capstone Experience	No	3
<b>3 Credits</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>CPL</b>	<b>Credits</b>
31502350	Salon Sales & Marketing	No	3	

### **Capstone Experience**

**31502342**

**3 credits**

Students prepare for the state board exam and for securing a job. Students complete a mock assessment of all state board practical and written concepts, including state law. Students also prepare for their job search and for working with the business side of the cosmetology industry.

*Corequisite: Admission to the Cosmetology program 315021 and consent of instructor*

### **Chemical Texture Services**

**31502336**

**3 credits**

Includes the basics of safe and sanitary permanent waving and chemical hair relaxing. Includes history and product knowledge of these chemical services as well as advanced techniques and procedures that define current trends in the salon.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*

### **Facials**

**31502340**

**1 credit**

Students learn the different types of skin and study structure and functions of the skin. Applies basic facial techniques. Students will study microdermabrasion, laser hair removal, and chemical peels. They also perform basic skin waxing techniques, removal of superfluous hair, makeup application, false eyelash application, and skin analysis.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*

### **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.

### **Haircolor**

**31502347**

**3 credits**

Covers hair-color basics which include the law of color, the color wheel, and the theory behind these concepts. Students identify the chemicals used in hair color and discover the differences between temporary, semi/demi, and permanent color. Students mix and apply color while developing skills and building client consultation techniques. Studies application methods governed by the state board regulations. Also teaches the study of bleach theory and complete lightening applications, including foiling. Students experience advanced color formulations, color placement techniques, and color correction procedures.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*

### **Haircutting**

**31502335**

**3 credits**

Involves designing haircuts, understanding form, and applying various haircutting techniques. Students perform various haircuts, including blunt, uniform, increased, and graduated haircuts. Students also perform men's haircuts including razor cutting, shear over comb, clipper cutting, clipper over comb, short tapered, and flattops. Trimming techniques used for men's facial hair are also emphasized and practiced, including shaving, beards, mustaches, and side burns.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*

### **Hairstyling**

**31502334**

**3 credits**

Emphasizes wet and dry hairstyling to include rollers, air-forming, thermal styling, hair straightening, finger waving, pin curls, hair analysis, shampooing, scalp treatments, braiding, long hair design, and hair pressing. Fundamentals of thermal styling and comb-outs are performed. Practical aspects of hair enhancements including wigs, hair extensions, and hair pieces will also be performed.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*

### **Nail Technology**

**31502337**

**1 credit**

Students achieve skills in manicuring, pedicuring, and nail enhancement services, including polish application and massage techniques. Students study nail shape and safe and sanitary use of nail care products. Paraffin hand dips, advanced polish techniques, and various nail art application are practiced.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021 or Nail Technician program 305024*

### **Salon Client Relations**

**31502343**

**4 credits**

Students refine their professional communication and consultation skills with clients as they continue to increase their salon quotas. Students gain confidence and speed in their advancing skills and also earn 25 hours of off-campus training.

*Corequisite: Salon Operations 31502338*

### **Salon Communication & Management**

**31502349**

**3 credits**

While continuing to practice salon service skills, students focus on communicating with other stylists and with challenging clients in stressful situations. Students also look at the business side of the industry as they analyze business plans, handbooks, and vision and mission statements.

### **Salon Ecology & Industry Trends**

**31502344**

**4 credits**

The field of cosmetology is built on hairstyle trends. This course examines those trends as students practice the techniques necessary to create contemporary and creative styles. This course also looks at ecological salon practices and protections for clients and workers and includes 25 hours of off-campus training.

*Corequisite: Salon Operations 31502338*

### **Salon Operations**

**31502338**

**1 credit**

Focuses on developing front desk and client relation skills including managing bookings and applying sanitation standards to dispensary practices. Emphasizes daily operations of a salon and the professional attitudes needed to be successful in the industry.

*Corequisites: Haircolor 31502347, Hairstyling 31502334, Haircutting 31502335, Chemical Texture Services 31502336, Nail Technology 31502337, and Facials 31502340*

### **Salon Sales & Marketing**

**31502350**

**3 credits**

Using technology, students learn to analyze their productivity reports and manage point of sale operations for each of their clients. Included in this course is a focus on how to market products and services to clients through the creation of salon marketing materials.

### **Theory of General Sciences**

**31502316**

**1 credit**

Covers several general science topics integral to the field of barbering/cosmetology, including bacteriology, infection control, properties of the hair and scalp, nail structure and growth, skin diseases and disorders, introduction to electrology, the basics of electricity, chemistry, and anatomy and physiology. This course is offered online only.

*Prerequisite: Admission to Cosmetology program 315021*