

NAIL TECHNICIAN

Technical Diploma

Program Code: 30-502-4

Total Credits: 11

Mid-State's Nail Technician program prepares students to shape fingernails and toenails, remove unwanted skin and blemishes, apply polish and cosmetics to nails, and function as licensed manicurists or nail technicians/specialists. You'll learn manicuring theory; skin anatomy; nail growth, irregularities, and diseases; sterilization and sanitation; equipment and table maintenance; cuticle, blemish, and rough skin removal; nail filing, shaping, and polishing; cream application and extremity massage; nail sculpture and design art; product storage and use; customer service; laws and regulations; and business practices. You'll receive instruction and practice your new skills in our completely remodeled teaching/learning space and salon, which includes a room dedicated to nail technician students and nail services, with brand new manicure tables and pedicure thrones as well as equipment for acrylic and gel nail services.

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
- 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

- Nail Technician (11 Credits)
Start Your Career: Gel & Acrylic Nail Specialist, Manicurist, Nail Artist, Nail Tech/Technician, 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.

Other Options

Related Programs: Barber Technologist, Cosmetology

OUTCOMES

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

- Apply safety and sanitation procedures.
- Adhere to the current Wisconsin administrative codes and statutes for cosmetology/manicurist licensing.
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills for success.
- 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.

This program meets the Wisconsin state nail technician requirement of 300 hours of training and is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Students must purchase a kit comprised of required tools and supplies. The cost of the kit is approximately \$400.

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 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

Nail Technician • 11 Total Credits

| Term 11 Credits | Course Number | Course Name | CPL | Credits |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| | 31502337 | Nail Technology | No | 1 |
| | 30502322 | Manicurist Client Service | No | 4 |
| | 30502323 | Manicurist Capstone | No | 2 |
| | 30502331 | Advanced Nail Technology | No | 2 |
| | 30502332 | Nail Salon Operations & Management | No | 1 |
| | 10890102 | GPS for Student Success | Yes | 1 |

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 Nail Technology

30502331

2 credits

This course will provide students with advanced nail techniques. Fundamentals will include: nail terminology, acrylics, nail enhancements, gel services, nail design, finger & toe waxing, product knowledge, and safety and sanitation procedures.

Corequisite: Nail Technology 31502337 or consent of instructor

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.

Manicurist Capstone

30502323

2 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 nail industry. Course includes student completion of the Barbicide® Certification and Barbicide® COVID-19 Certification.

Corequisite: Manicurist Client Service 30502322

Manicurist Client Service

30502322

4 credits

Perform spa nail services on guests including manicures, pedicures, nail enhancement services, finger and toe waxing, and specialty techniques. Apply critical client interaction and professionalism to all aspects of guest services. Improve time and accuracy of services throughout the course. Includes refining techniques that will ensure entry-level preparedness for the Wisconsin licensure exam. Students complete this course in the on-campus salon.

Corequisite: Nail Salon Operations & Management 30502332

Nail Salon Operations & Management

30502332

1 credit

This course includes business and management principles for nail technicians, laws and regulations, and career strategies. Emphasized are daily operations of a salon, client consultations and relations, infection control, proper business practices, and professional attitudes. Additionally, is a focus on industry trends, salon sales, and advertising techniques.

Corequisite: Advanced Nail Technology 30502331

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