

# UTILITY TREE TRIMMER

## Technical Diploma

**Program Code: 30-001-4**

**Total Credits: 17**

The Utility Tree Trimmer program is a one-year technical diploma embedded in the Arborist Technician associate degree. Students are trained in introductory electrical awareness and safety, electrical hardware identification, tree pruning, chainsaw use, climbing and related aerial tree work, tree identification, pesticide handling and application, and tree biology. Teamwork and crew leadership are also emphasized. The program includes hands-on exploration and learning, and many classes are outdoors. Our unique aerial component ensures students gain experience while working safely in trees.

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).

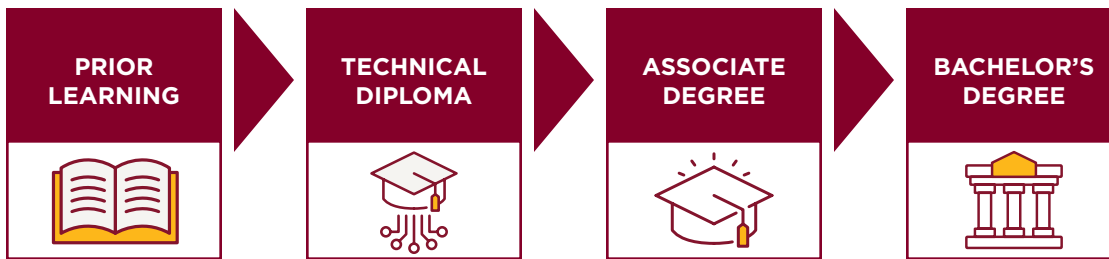
[mstc.edu](https://mstc.edu) • 888-575-6782 • TTY: 711



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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**

- Utility Tree Trimmer (17 Credits)  
Start Your Career: Right of Way Vegetation Management Specialist, Tree Climber, Tree Trimmer, Utility Arborist, Utility Vegetation Management

### **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](https://mstc.edu/transfer).

### **Other Options**

Related Programs: Agribusiness Science & Technology, Agronomy Technician, Farm Operation

Apprenticeship Opportunity: Arborist

## OUTCOMES

Employers will expect you, as a Utility Tree Trimmer graduate, to be able to:

- Relate basic electrical system components with safe work practices.
- Perform arborist chainsaw cutting practices in a safe manner.
- Conduct arboriculture industry pruning practices.

## 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.

## 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

### Utility Tree Trimmer • 17 Total Credits

| Term<br>10 Credits | Course Number | Course Name                                | CPL | Credits |
|--------------------|---------------|--|-----|---------|
|                    | 10001118      | Landscape Plant Identification             | Yes | 2       |
|                    | 10001124      | Arborist Skills Introduction               | No  | 2       |
|                    | 10001133      | Chainsaw Safety and Operation              | No  | 2       |
|                    | 10001173      | Pruning for Structure                      | Yes | 2       |
|                    | 10001108      | Electric Systems & Safety in Arboriculture | Yes | 1       |
|                    | 10890102      | GPS for Student Success                    | Yes | 1       |

| Term<br>7 Credits | Course Number | Course Name                               | CPL | Credits |
|-------------------|---------------|---|-----|---------|
|                   | 10001102      | Plant Health Care Applicator              | Yes | 2       |
|                   | 10001110      | Tree Biology                              | No  | 2       |
|                   | 10001125      | Arboriculture Operations 1                | No  | 2       |
|                   | 10001150      | Workplace Communications in Arboriculture | No  | 1       |

#### Please Note

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

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Arboriculture Operations 1**

**10001125**

**2 credits**

Emphasizes practice of skills associated with being safe & productive members of crews engaged in basic tree work/ arboricultural operations. Topics include introductory elements of pruning & removal techniques, equipment operations, & work site set-up.

*Prerequisites: Arborist Skills Introduction 10001124 and Pruning for Structure 10001173*

### **Arborist Skills Introduction**

**10001124**

**2 credits**

A hands-on introduction to the basic techniques employed by arborists engaged in performing aerial tree care operations. Topics include canopy access methods, arborist gear usage, safety considerations/risk recognition, and knot selection.

### **Chainsaw Safety and Operation**

**10001133**

**2 credits**

This course will familiarize students with common chainsaw practices employed within the arboricultural industry, including safe operation, routine maintenance, common cutting techniques, and use of personal protective equipment. Students will operate and maintain chainsaws. Additionally, field exercises will simulate tree removal operations.

### **Electric Systems & Safety in Arboriculture**

**10001108**

**1 credit**

Students will gain familiarity with electrical distribution and transmission system hardware identification. Industry safety best practices and standards related to performing tree work near energized conductors will be explored.

### **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 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.

### **Pruning for Structure**

**10001173**

**2 credits**

Focuses on the art and science of tree pruning. Topics include tree structure, introductory biology, pruning cuts, and young tree training. Students will gain hands-on experience performing tree pruning.

### **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.

### **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.