

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE-ILLINOIS
2025 Commencement



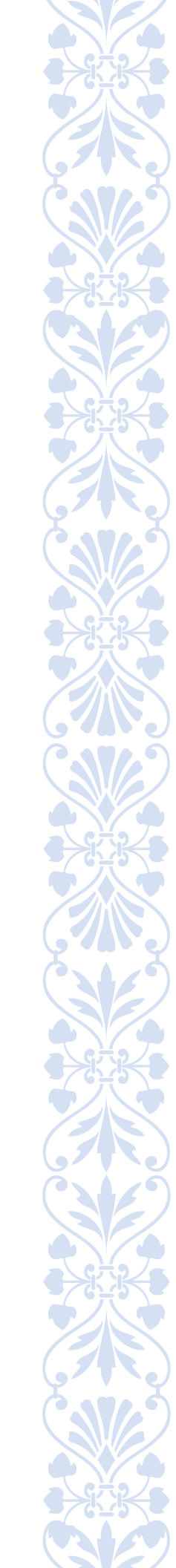
MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE-ILLINOIS

2025 Commencement

*Midwestern University • Downers Grove Campus
Thursday, the Twenty-Ninth of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five*





ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
Interim Dean, Chicago College of Optometry, Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Thomas A. Boyle, D.O., M.B.A., FACEP, FACOEP
Dean, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sheri Brownstein, D.M.D., M.Ed.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Arizona

Jared Chamberlain, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences, Glendale Campus

Mitchell R. Emerson, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses

Michael J. Fay, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses

Alicia E. Feis, O.D., FAAO
Dean, Arizona College of Optometry

Carla Gartrell, D.V.M., J.D., DACVIM
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine-Arizona

Harold J. Haering, D.M.D.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Illinois

Jeffrey L. Jensen, D.P.M., FACFAS
Dean, Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine

Lori A. Kemper, D.O., M.S., FACOFP
Dean, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Coretta C. Patterson, D.V.M., DACVIM-SA
Dean, Proposed College of Veterinary Medicine-Illinois

Fred D. Romano, Ph.D., FASAHP
Dean, College of Health Sciences, Downers Grove Campus

Shannon Sesterhenn, M.S., Ed.D.
Dean of Student Services

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional

THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

Introduction

National Anthem

Opening Reflection

Welcome Address

Oath of a Dentist

Presentation of Graduates

Conferral of Degrees

Presentation of Midwestern University Coin Honoring our Military Graduates

Musical Interlude

Student Remarks

Closing Remarks

Closing Reflection

Recessional

Video recording of commencement ceremonies using cameras or personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Midwestern University reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any event sponsored by MWU for publicity purposes without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph/video. MWU may use the images on its social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube), websites (midwestern.edu, mwuclinics.com, or mwuanimalhealth.com), or printed publications (e.g., invitations, programs, brochures). Thank you for your participation.



Graduation Celebration Social Media Toolkit

Congratulations Graduates! Midwestern University wants to help you celebrate commencement and provide you the tools to help you share your success on social media with customized stickers and templates for each social platform.

Add a commemorative cover photo to your Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter profile, send a Snapchat with our graduation filters or use an #MWUGrad2025 Instagram sticker to tell your story.

DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE CLASS OF 2025

Monica Abouelsaad

Virginia Beach, VA

Neena Marie Botthof

Chicago, IL

Rachel Lyn Dziuba

Ann Arbor, MI

Lauren Richardson Aboussleman

Grand Ledge, MI

Pamela May Braund

Afton, MI

Mostafa Elibiary

Cairo, Egypt

Mallak Ahmad

Palos Heights, IL

Nicolas Austin Broadway

Haughton, LA

Valeria Alexandra Estrella*

Phoenix, AZ

Ala M. Alia

Homer Glen, IL

Natalia Izabela Brzezinski

Chicago, IL

Christian John Faber

Holland, MI

Youssef Aljundi

Glen Ellyn, IL

Amanda M. Butler

Brownsville, WI

William Daniel Fabiano

Dubuque, IA

Jared Andrew Ambrose

East China, MI

Jamie Verzosa Castro

Los Angeles, CA

Maria Quesada Flynn

Caracas, Venezuela

Kristian Arafat

Sterling Heights, MI

Tina Chalabiani Nejadazar

Atlanta, GA

Nicholas Fornatto

Elmhurst, IL

Alaa Ashouri

Oak Forest, IL

Timmy Chen

Tampa, FL

Hsiang You Fu

Brea, CA

Martina Sobhy Awad

Cleveland, OH

Abigail Cortis

Lansing, MI

Mariya A. Gashimova

Charlotte, NC

Tala Baker

Palos Heights, IL

Marina Curiel

Lancaster, CA

Rita Geloneck

West Bloomfield, MI

Vasiliki Chris Balis

Greenfield, MA

Karolina Marika Danieliszyn

Westmont, IL

Marlena Giannamore

Southbury, CT

Zainab Fatima Baqri

Orlando, FL

Noah David

Wauwatosa, WI

Larah Jamila Haj-Diab

Northville, MI

Mohamad Hussein Bazzi

Dearborn, MI

Sarah Dawes

Libertyville, IL

Chandler Lee Harbin

Fayetteville, AR

Summer Shirin Belayet

Milwaukee, WI

Diana Tucker De Sanctis

Skillman, NJ

Tanner Bradley Hartvigsen

Surprise, AZ

Gregory Robert Bell

Ashland, OH

Allison Elaine Donlan

Peoria, IL

Kaitlin Marie Healy

Jamestown, NY

*Also receiving the Master of Public Health degree

Jacob Scott Hermes
Spokane, WA

Marlayna G. Majerus
River Falls, WI

Princewill Onwenu
West Bloomfield, MI

Alexis Holwick
Fort Smith, AR

Sara Grace Majestic
Lowell, MI

Toks Onyekwuluje
Irvine, CA

Elzahraa Nasser Teleb Hussein
Lombard, IL

Christine Mary Malito
Frankfort, IL

Deborah Osendi Travieso
West Palm Beach, FL

Mohamed Ali Hussein
Dearborn, MI

Shivani Sikiu Prashad Mann
Lake Worth, FL

Erendira Palomino Razo
Milwaukee, WI

Nelda Isbel Iznaga
Homestead, FL

Erina Maranda*
Elmhurst, IL

Angela Hyoeun Park
Los Angeles, CA

Ahmed Wael Jaber
Dearborn, MI

Yasamin Mehrazar
Modesto, CA

Kaylan Patel
West Chicago, IL

Rachel Joe
Camas, WA

Melinda Lorraine Meyer
Plano, TX

Miloni Nitin Patel
Melrose Park, IL

Vasiliki Thomaee Kanellopoulos
Northville, MI

Aliyah Miles-Williams
East Orange, NJ

Shivam Patel
San Francisco, CA

Claudia Maria Karwowski
Wheaton, IL

Lucas Alan Miller
American Falls, ID

Swara Axay Patel
Colonia, NJ

Shumila Kazmi
Plainfield, IL

Anshul Mor
Seattle, WA

Paige Madden Paul*
Esterro, FL

Reesha B. Kesho
Portage, MI

Jannelle Victoria Morad
Rochester Hills, MI

Jeremiah David Penberthy
Post Falls, ID

Quratulann Khan
Bolingbrook, IL

Nicole Madeleine Mouganis
Bumpass, VA

Edmond Peshku
Troy, MI

Ashley Lynne Krape
Las Vegas, NV

Quang Nguyen
Houston, TX

Autumn Adair Peterson
Winchester, WI

Anusha Sonia Kumar
Ormond Beach, FL

Asmaa M. Norelden
North Bergen, NJ

Rachel Piper
Largo, FL

Nathan John Larkin
Lakeville, MN

Paul John Nosowicz
Warren, MI

Mohammed Qashmer
West Bank, Palestine, WB

Melinda Xuan Le
Atlanta, GA

Thomas David Nuhfer
Edinboro, PA

Melissa Rafuls
Miami, FL

**Also receiving the Master of Public Health degree*

Dina Rashid

Chicago, IL

Samrah Riaz

Waukesha, WI

Christian Roessler

Salisbury, MD

Andrew Rofael

Huntington Beach, CA

Yesenia Rosell Padron

Miami, FL

Chase Montgomery Ruckhaber

Farmington Hills, MI

Zydrune Rudaviciute

Toms River, NJ

Jaskaran Singh Sadhar

Monroe Township, NJ

Rugea Mahdi Saheb

Fort Worth, TX

Mark-Vincent Sansone

Hilton, NY

Vanessa Santacruz

Naperville, IL

Brandon Santelli

Kenosha, WI

Zan Uncer Sattar

Bloomfield Hills, MI

Saed Steeve Sayegh

Oldsmar, FL

Lauren Anne Scarry

Venice, FL

Brittany Marie Schneider

Brookfield, IL

Jason Tyler Schwager

Oxford, MI

Margaret Vaughan Schwan

Virginia Beach, VA

Jason Shindo

Concord, CA

Brandon Alexander Silvestry

Miami, FL

Kayla Sleight

Mapleton, UT

Melanie M. Snyder

Fairfax, VA

Elizabeth Antoinette Solans

Mount Prospect, IL

Michael John Standring

Moraga, CA

Elizabeth Steinmetz

Combined Locks, WI

Joseph Tadros

Darien, IL

Jameson Teuscher

Elburn, IL

Cassandra Nhi Thai

San Jose, CA

Lynh Boi Tran

Savage, MN

Sebastian Van Tran

San Jose, CA

Tracy Linh Tran

Santa Clara, CA

Destyni Travers

Grand Isle, VT

Katherine Josephine Trimble

Menomonie, WI

Michael Tsang

Lincolnwood, IL

Mariangel Uzcategui

San Cristobal, VEN

Lucille Kristen Varga

Bannockburn, IL

Dana Nicole Varriello

Beach Haven West, NJ

Alex Vartanian

Pasadena, CA

Karina Vazquez

Houston, TX

Jacqueline Brooke Wallowitch

West Deptford, NJ

Ashley Elizabeth Wang

Carlsbad, CA

Jacob Andrew Weber

Lincoln, NE

Mikaylin Rose Woodside

Oneida, IL

Stephanie Yong

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Shanze Hassan Zaidi

Tampa, FL

Marissa R. Zimmerman

Plainwell, MI

Shahad Zoma

West Bloomfield, MI

OATH OF A DENTIST

As I continue my career in dental medicine,
I pledge to abide by the following precepts:

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to
my patients and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best
of my ability, the highest standard of oral healthcare.

All who seek my assistance should feel safe and be confident
in the knowledge that their total health and
well-being are my first considerations.

I will embrace scientific knowledge, as I continue to
expand my experience and skills in dentistry.

I will engage only in those procedures for which
I am prepared, in order to maintain the trust
expected of a healthcare professional and I will never
take advantage of the patient-provider relationship.

I will respect the patient's right to privacy and
I will embrace the diversity of my patients and
my colleagues and treat all people with respect, for the
betterment of my community and for the benefit of all society.

I will recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to
develop those qualities that are expected of me
by my patients, my colleagues, my family and myself.

I will continue this learning through all the days of my life.

All this, I pledge with pride in my commitment to
the profession and the public which it serves.

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND PROCESSIONAL

Gown

The gown is the cornerstone of the academic costume that has its origins in 12th and 13th century Europe, a period when universities were being formed. Today, Midwestern University follows guidelines established by the American Council on Education. All graduates wear black gowns, with the front panels of the doctoral gown trimmed in black velvet. Each sleeve of the doctoral gown is adorned with three bars of black velvet with bell-shaped wrist ends. The master's gown is unadorned, with the wrist ends of the sleeve open oblongs that extend beyond the hand.

Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Discipline Color: Kelly Green

Liner Color: Black

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Program

Discipline Color: Sage Green

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

Chicago College of Optometry

Discipline Color: Seafoam

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove

Discipline Color: Olive

Liner Color: Light Purple

Chevron Color: White

College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology Program

Discipline Color: Gold

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Biomedical Sciences Program

Discipline Color: Gold

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program

Discipline Color: Gold

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Speech-Language Pathology Program

Discipline Color: Crimson

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Public Health Program

Discipline Color: Gold

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Program

Discipline Color: Teal Blue

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Dental Medicine–Illinois

Discipline Color: Lilac

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold

College of Graduate Studies Precision Medicine Program

Discipline Color: Gold

Liner Color: Navy

Chevron Color: Gold



Hood

The hood, a commencement accessory placed around the neck that drapes down the back of the graduate's gown, signifies achievement in higher education. Its velvet top layer is the discipline color of the program of study. Both the lining and the chevron trim colors are those of the college or the program. The doctoral hood is four feet in length; the master's hood is three and one-half feet in length.

Tam

All Midwestern University graduates wear black velvet tams with black (master programs) or gold (doctoral programs) tassels that hang to the right front side.

Honor Cords

The honor cord, nearly six feet in length, is worn around the graduate's neck and drapes down the front of the gown. The different cord colors designate the academic achievement or honor status in a national academic/professional society. A graduate can wear multiple cords if he or she qualifies for individual honors.

Midwestern University Coin

A custom minted coin is a military tradition to recognize achievement, create incentive, improve safety, or show appreciation for duty, dedication, or a job well done. Following the military tradition, Midwestern University proudly presents graduates who are in the military or entering the military following graduation with a Midwestern University Coin to honor their service to our country.

HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Midwestern University has a proud and impressive history. Founded in 1900 as the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery by J. Martin Littlejohn, Ph.D., D.O., M.D. (1865–1947), the organization was incorporated in Chicago, Illinois, to train physicians in a not-for-profit environment.

Dr. Littlejohn hired talented faculty that enabled the College to establish a reputation as a leader in medical education, research, and clinical practice. The early faculty mentored their students in the art and science of osteopathic medicine while teaching surgery, the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine, anatomy, and basic science.

The growth of the osteopathic college is intertwined with that of the osteopathic medical profession itself. Ever since 1874 when a country doctor, Andrew Taylor Still, announced his new theory of treating patients and began the first college in 1892, the profession has grown in reputation and acceptance around the country and international settings.



The Downers Grove Campus was purchased in 1986, and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine moved from its prior home in Hyde Park, Illinois, to this western suburb of Illinois. Following the relocation of the College, the Board of Trustees voted to begin the development of new academic programs within the health sciences, including the College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove (1991) and the College of Health Sciences, Downers Grove (1992). In 1993, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a single educational mission for the institution, and Midwestern University emerged. The Downers Grove Campus has since expanded to include the College of Dental Medicine–Illinois (2009), the Chicago College of Optometry (2014), the College of Graduate Studies, Downers Grove (2018), and the Proposed College of Veterinary Medicine–Illinois (2024). The Downers Grove Campus, located on 105 acres, has buildings that include academic classrooms, laboratories, a state-of-the-art library and auditorium building, and student housing. The Midwestern University Multispecialty Clinic and the future Companion Animal Clinic sit on 11 acres in Downers Grove. Established in 2013, the Multispecialty Clinic includes the Dental Institute, a Family Medicine Practice, the Speech-Language Institute, the Physical Therapy Institute, the Eye Institute, and other health services designed to meet a wide range of healthcare needs.

The Glendale Campus was established in 1995 when the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of land and the building of a new campus in Arizona. The Glendale Campus is home to the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (1995), the College of Health Sciences, Glendale (1996), the College of Pharmacy, Glendale (1998), the College of Dental Medicine–Arizona (2006), the Arizona College of Optometry (2008), the College of Veterinary Medicine–Arizona (2012), the College of Graduate Studies, Glendale (2018), and the Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine (2020). The campus has seen rapid growth in the number of buildings, academic programs, faculty, staff, and students. The Glendale Campus, located on 134 acres, has buildings that provide for academic classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, and student housing. Midwestern University operates six community clinics in Metro Phoenix. Five are located on the University’s 40-acre Clinical Campus: the Multispecialty Clinic, which opened in 2007; the Dental Institute and the Eye Institute, which opened in 2010; the Animal Health Institute—comprised of the Companion Animal Clinic (opened 2014), Large Animal Center (opened 2015), and Diagnostic Pathology Center (opened 2016); and the Therapy Institute, which opened in 2020. The Midwestern University Comprehensive Care Clinic – Central Phoenix, operated in partnership since 2023, is located in north central Phoenix.

Midwestern University is still governed by the strong principles of the founding administration and faculty. An independent, not-for-profit corporation organized primarily to provide graduate and postgraduate education in the health sciences, the University is dedicated to the education and development of its students, faculty, and staff in an environment that encourages learning and personal development.

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the Midwestern University Downers Grove Campus is on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Indigenous peoples who have been caretakers of the land throughout generations, past and present. Acknowledging the history of the land on which our campus is located presents an opportunity to support and collaborate with Indigenous communities today.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O SAY CAN YOU SEE, BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT,
WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAIL'D AT THE TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING,
WHOSE BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS THROUGH THE PERILOUS FIGHT
O'ER THE RAMPARTS WE WATCH'D WERE SO GALLANTLY STREAMING?
AND THE ROCKETS' RED GLARE, THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR,
GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE,
O SAY DOES THAT STAR-SPANGLED BANNER YET WAVE
O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE?



The national anthem of the United States of America is “The Star-Spangled Banner,” whose lyrics were inspired by a poem written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key after he witnessed the victorious defense of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, during the War of 1812. Key wrote the poem after seeing a large United States flag—composed of 13 red and white stripes, and 15 white stars against a field of blue—flying triumphantly above the fort after its bombardment the night before by British ships in Chesapeake Bay. “The Star-Spangled Banner” was named the official national anthem by a Congressional resolution on March 3, 1931.



MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

Downers Grove Campus

555 31st Street | Downers Grove, IL 60515

www.midwestern.edu | mwuclinics.com | mwuanimalhealth.com