

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
2025 Commencement



MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

2025 Commencement

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





ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
Interim 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

Kaila Osmotherly Dougherty, O.D., FAAO
Vice President, Clinic Operations

Mitchell R. Emerson, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy, 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

Brianne N. Hobbs, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO
Dean, Chicago College of Optometry

Sandra E. Inouye, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses

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

Sarah Radtke, Ed.D., M.S.
Incoming Dean, College of Health Sciences, Downers Grove Campus

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

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

Yir Gloria Yueh, Ph.D.
Vice President and Chief Academic Officer



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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.



ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional

THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

Introduction

National Anthem

Opening Reflection

Welcome Address

Health Sciences Oath

Presentation of Graduates

Conferral of Degrees

Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2025

Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies

Presentation of Midwestern University Coin Honoring our Military Graduate

Student Remarks

Closing Remarks

Closing Reflection

Recessional

Mace Bearers

Rachel A. Piszczor, Psy.D.
Lauren M. Sbarbaro, Psy.D., LADC

Opening Reflection

Jocelin Sisto, M.A., M.M.S., PA-C

Closing Reflection

Daniel M. Provencher, M.S., PA-C

Name Announcer

Lorna H. London, Ph.D.

Oath

Lauren Trillo, M.S., PA-C

Student Marshals

Leah Pieczynski, M.M.S., PA-C
Jeffrey P. Maney, Ph.D.
Don T. Martinez, M.M.S., PA-C
Sandhya Noronha, M.D.

Faculty Marshals

Erica Menocci, M.M.S., PA-C
Connie B. Natvig, Ph.D.

Stage Marshals

Ann M. Sauer, Ph.D., ABPP
Melissa Johnson Chung, Ed.D., M.M.S., PA-C

Clinical Psychology Program Hooders

Michelle M. Lee, Ph.D., ABPP
Nathaniel D. Krumdick, Ph.D., IABMCP

Physician Assistant Studies Program Hooders

Kristy L. Luciano, M.S., PA-C
Samantha M. Boburka, DMSc, PA-C

Student Speaker

Ellyssa Dougan
Class President, Clinical Psychology Program



CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AWARDS

Milena Arsic
Ellyssa Dougan
Dean's Achievement Award

Sierra Taylor Maziur
Danielle Roehr
Aleena Samy
Scholar Award

Mackenzie Marie Leroux
Sierra Taylor Maziur
Leadership Award

Jack Paul Berens
Humanitarian Award

Caitlin Alyssa Fields
Research Excellence Award

Sara E. Rosenquist
Department Citizenship Award

Shivani Patel
Interdisciplinary Engagement Award

Ellyssa Dougan
Anthony Atef Mackar
The Dr. Wendell Carpenter Award for Professionalism and Diversity

Blue and Silver Cord denotes membership in Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Milena Arsic
Darien, IL

Andrew Jedd
Pittsburgh, PA

Katherine Pace
Oakdale, LA

Alina Asif
Pembroke Pines, FL

Michael Kelley
Olathe, KS

Amalia Panos
Des Plaines, IL

Ellyssa Dougan
Bloomington, IL

Anthony Atef Mackar
Downers Grove, IL

Shivani Patel
Hoover, AL

Caitlin Alyssa Fields
Scottsdale, AZ

Anna Miles
Batavia, IL

Sara E. Rosenquist
Jamesport, NY

Haley Gibson
Lisle, IL

Taylor Newman
Jonesboro, AR

Brandie C. Vera
Elgin, IL

James Edward Harness
Anderson, IN

Thomas James Nielsen
Blackfoot, ID

Hunter Jay Young
Islip, NY

Kowsar Hijazi
Dearborn, MI

Tana Michelle Nixon
Amarillo, TX

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fayzeh Abujado
Chicago, IL

Alyson R. Garcia
San Antonio, TX

Emilia Ollearis
Batavia, IL

Joshua A. Amaro
St. Charles, IL

Hannah Minh-Han Ho
Westminster, CA

Danielle Roehr
Mundelein, IL

Jack Paul Berens
Beach Park, IL

Haegan Kent
Dublin, OH

Felicity Hope Rondeau
Saukville, WI

Lucy Rose Byrne
LaGrange, IL

Sage Jeehae Kim
Manchester, CT

Aleena Samy
Orlando, FL

Jordan Rebecca Cohen
Boca Raton, FL

Mackenzie Marie Leroux
Valley City, ND

Brenda D. Sladek
Carol Stream, IL

Andria M. Davis
Lombard, IL

Sierra Taylor Maziur
Oak Forest, IL

Madison Isabelle Webb
Arlington, TN

Julie Marie Davis
Darien, IL

Robin Moscovitch
Plantation, FL

Veronika Zivna
Jesenice, Czech Republic

Malcolm Xzzavier Edelin, Jr.
Prince George's County, MD

Colleen O'Finn
Orland Park, IL

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Sabreen Amir

Burr Ridge, IL

Edda Anderson

Chandler, AZ

Arkadiusz Baginski

Lisle, IL

Brandon Baltz

Milwaukee, WI

Bridget Barnebey

Downers Grove, IL

Aidan James Benedict

Spring Lake, MI

Susana Beza

Frederick, MD

Julia Brooks

Palos Park, IL

Orlando Bui

Fountain Valley, CA

Alexandra Juliette Calderisi

Lake Zurich, IL

Abigail Elizabeth Casmere

Downers Grove, IL

Riya L. Chirayil

Morton Grove, IL

Maria Diana Cipriani

Oak Lawn, IL

Abigail E. Digby

Spartanburg, SC

Shaye Dostal

Pleasant Prairie, WI

Andrew Thomas Elder

DeKalb, IL

Rabia Fatima

Bolingbrook, IL

Emily Garti

Northbrook, IL

Jessica Paula Gewont

Burbank, IL

Georgiana Elizabeth Gomorzak

North Riverside, IL

Jessica Gooder

Naperville, IL

Grace Gordon

Caledonia, IL

Alexandria Elizabeth Gromala

Hawthorn Woods, IL

Saja Hamad

Chicago Ridge, IL

Sarah Imad Hasan

Bridgeview, IL

Madison Nicole Havemann

Saint Charles, IL

Sydney Rebecca Holt

Wildwood, MO

Rachel Jakubowski

Lincolnwood, IL

Disha Japa

Prior Lake, MN

Janielle Javier

Bolingbrook, IL

Rhett Justesen

Ephraim, UT

Michelle Kim

Troy, MI

Megan Klinger

Clay, MI

Hannah Noelle Knight

Channahon, IL

Victoria Mae Kutz

Alexandria, VA

Austin James Langwinski

Dyer, IN

Krystal Le

Garden Grove, CA

Elizabeth Rose Lemm

Waukesha, WI

Maria Fernanda Lopez-Bermejo

Rochester Hills, MI

Allyn Grace Madden

Ballston Lake, NY

Brenna Mae Maloney

Kenosha, WI

Tanner Raeann McGowan

Bloomington, IL

Bo McIntosh

Harrison, OH

Kilauren Carol McMahon

Glen Carbon, IL

Yvonne Lizette Montano

Douglas, AZ

Aishwariya Mudunuri

Troy, MI

Aleena Pinarkyil

Morton Grove, IL

Kaley Ann Stewart

Willow Springs, IL

Mckenna Leigh Murdock

St. George, UT

Ellen Michelle Polyakov

Boynton Beach, FL

Deqi Tao

Guangzhou, China

Jimmy Khang Nguyen

Garden Grove, CA

Dennis Poplavskyy

Zhytomyr, Ukraine

Katelyn Marie Trexel

Saint Paul, MN

Kathy Nguyen

Arvada, CO

Haley Rose Radev

Palos Heights, IL

Jordan Taylor Trommater

Poplar Grove, IL

Danielle Osmon

Lake Villa, IL

Jewel Raske

Maricopa, AZ

Anthony Ray Tubon

Eagle River, AK

Nancy Padilla

Chicago, IL

Victoria Anna Rzucidlo

Bull Valley, IL

Hannah Marie Vitkus

St. Charles, IL

Jazmin Parker

Joliet, IL

Sage Madison Sasso

Frankfort, IL

David Chinh Vo

Pacific Palisades, CA

Deep Patel

Glendale Heights, IL

Erica Jane Schan

Santa Ana, CA

Rebecca R. Walz

Bradley, IL

Dipali Mayur Patel

West Chicago, IL

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf

Arlington Heights, IL

Sarah Linnea Williams

Stephenson, MI

Mansi Patel

Hanover Park, IL

Kristine Shair

West Covina, CA

Natalie Yoraway

Eden Prairie, MN

Minal Jignesh Patel

Woodridge, IL

Camryn Simone Silverton

Linden, MI

Adelisa Zahirovic

Grand Rapids, MI

Grace Philipp

Green Bay, WI

Tahlia Spiegel

Natick, MA

Carlos Fabian Zamudio

Chicago, IL

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AWARDS

Erica Jane Schan
Dean's Achievement Award

Natalie Yoraway
Leadership Award

Rhett Justesen
Faculty Award

Rhett Justesen
*Tom Norini Physician Assistant Program
Service and Leadership Award*



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY

Clinical Psychology Program

Abby J. Hurley, Psy.D.

Nathaniel D. Krumdick, Ph.D., IABMCP

Michelle M. Lee, Ph.D., ABPP

Lorna H. London, Ph.D.

Jeffrey P. Maney, Ph.D.

Connie B. Natvig, Ph.D.

Richard C. Ney, Ph.D., ABPP

Rachel A. Piszczor, Psy.D.

Ann M. Sauer, Ph.D., ABPP

Lauren M. Sbarbaro, Psy.D., LADC

Tatiana Vukotic, Psy.D.

Physician Assistant Program

Samantha M. Boburka, D.M.Sc., PA-C

Melissa Johnson Chung, Ed.D., M.M.S., PA-C

Kristy L. Luciano, M.S., PA-C

Don T. Martinez, M.M.S., PA-C

Erica Menocci, M.M.S., PA-C

Sandhya Noronha, M.D.

Leah Pieczynski, M.M.S., PA-C

Daniel M. Provencher, M.S., PA-C

Lendell Richardson, M.D.

Jocelin Sisto, M.A., M.M.S., PA-C

Lauren D. Trillo, M.M.S., PA-C

HEALTH SCIENCES OATH

As I embark upon my career as a healthcare professional,
I pledge to abide by the following precepts:

I will dedicate myself to the highest standards of patient care
and biomedical research;

I will strive to advance scientific knowledge and expand humankind's
understanding of illness, disease, and health;

I will accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am
competent, maintain the trust expected of a healthcare professional,
and never take advantage of the patient-provider relationship;

I will respect the patient's right to privacy;

I will embrace the diversity of my patients and my colleagues and
treat all people with respect;

I will value the knowledge and wisdom of the healthcare professionals
who have taught me and endeavor to contribute to the traditions
of my profession;

I will recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop
those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues,
my family and myself; and

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

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

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