



**COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH SCIENCES**

**2026 COMMENCEMENT**



College of Health Sciences  
**2026 Commencement**

Midwestern University • Glendale Campus

Wednesday, the Third of June  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six



## **ORDER OF CEREMONY**

**Processional:** *Pomp and Circumstance*

THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

**Introduction:** Kaila Dougherty, O.D., D.H.A., FAAO  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**National Anthem:** *The Star-Spangled Banner* by F.S. Key

**Opening Reflection:** Kyle W. Dana, D.C., CP  
*Director, Cardiovascular Science Program*

**President's Address:** Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Dean's Welcome:** Jared Chamberlain, Ph.D.  
*Dean, College of Health Sciences, Glendale Campus*

**Health Sciences Oath:** Byron Russell, PT, Ph.D.  
*Director, Physical Therapy Program*

**Presentation of Graduates:** Dr. Chamberlain

**Conferral of Degrees:** Dr. Baker

**Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026**

**Presentation of Midwestern University Coin  
Honoring our Military Graduates**

**Student Remarks:** Rawan Hamadeh  
*Cardiovascular Science Program, Class of 2026*

**Closing Remarks:** Dr. Chamberlain

**Closing Reflection:** Melanie Logue, Ph.D., D.N.P., APRN, FAANP  
*Director, Graduate Nursing Program*

**Recessional**

**Announcer:**

Kyle W. Dana, D.C., CP

**Hooders:**

Mia Erickson, PT, Ed.D., CHT  
Melanie Logue, Ph.D., D.N.P., APRN, FAANP  
Tom Rath, M.P.S., CCP Emeritus

**Student Marshals:**

Chelsea Furnish, M.S., CCP  
Margaret Klausning, PT, D.P.T., M.S.C.I.  
Julie Steele-Pruett M.S., CP  
Joshua Subialka, PT, D.P.T., D.Sc.

**Faculty Marshals:**

Zachary Archer M.S., CCP  
Nelson Bryant, Ph.D., M.S.N., M.B.A.  
Roi Dennis Cayetano, PT, D.P.T.

**Mace Bearers:**

Rita Ator, PT, D.P.T., ATC  
Nathaniel Darban, Ph.D., CP





## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY CLASS OF 2026

**Deidra Alexander**

Hastings, NE

**Justin Chaparro**

Pueblo, CO

**Renee Habeeb**

Phoenix, AZ

**Adana Amor**

Aurora, IL

**Kendall Clark**

Fishers, IN

**Ashley Hall**

Redmond, OR

**Brandon Barker**

Simi Valley, CA

**David Correa**

Los Angeles, CA

**Joshua Himes**

Farmington, NM

**Mychaela Bennett**

Mesa, AZ

**André Cummings**

Atlanta, GA

**Angel Islas**

Los Angeles, CA

**Justise Birkenbuel**

Butte, MT

**Jessica Daly**

Medway, MA

**Parisa Jannesari**

Sugar Land, TX

**Samuel Bliese**

Rice Lake, WI

**Vivian Dao**

San Francisco, CA

**K'leigh LoCoco**

Alamogordo, NM

**Kyle Boudreau**

Antioch, IL

**Clara Erickson**

Seattle, WA

**Ella Luera**

El Paso, TX

**Amelia Braggs**

Tacoma, WA

**Jonathan Espinoza**

Mecca, CA

**Emily Malone**

Phoenix, AZ

**Brooke Brodzinski**

Minooka, IL

**Madeline Floyd**

Sammamish, WA

**Brianna Martinez**

Phoenix, AZ

**Samantha Brown**

Tracy, CA

**Lawson Forsberg**

Perry, UT

**Braxton Meek**

Angola, IN

**Zachery Brown**

Gillette, WY

**Alena Geiser**

Moab, UT

**Nina Molina**

Lancaster, CA

**Ti'Anna Bruce**

San Tan Valley, AZ

**Megan Germansky**

Los Angeles, CA

**Lauren Montoya**

Albuquerque, NM

**Kelsey Campbell**

Marysville, WA

**Kyle Gulle**

Casper, WY

**Dan Niculescu**

Corona, CA

**Madison Oliva**

Peoria, AZ

**Taylor Smith**

Lake Stevens, WA

**Erick Thompson**

Moreno Valley, CA

**Jordan Orr**

Ogallala, NE

**Nicholas Snyder**

West Hills, CA

**Kaitlyn Torres**

Winnetka, CA

**Zachary Ramones**

Ewa Beach, HI

**Emily Strein**

Jamestown, MO

**Sabrina Vaughan**

Phoenix, AZ

**Cassandra Safranske**

Peoria, AZ

**Alexia Thompson**

El Paso, TX

**Avery Zeitelhack**

Overland Park, KS

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE CLASS OF 2026

**Catherine Birtwistle**

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

**Angela Jensen**

Glendale, AZ

**Moruph Osuolale**

Boston, MA

**Stephanie Couture**

Glendale, AZ

**Thornell Lewis**

Tyler, TX

**Alisha Ryum Stott**

Peoria, AZ

**Laura Gray**

Prescott, AZ

**Carlene Martinez**

Glendale, AZ

**Mark Stalzer**

Glendale, AZ

**Susan Harris**

Scottsdale, AZ

**Rita Morris**

Goodyear, AZ

**Valeria Hernandez**

Avondale, AZ

**Jessica OShea**

Peoria, AZ

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING CLASS OF 2026

**Mariam Hassan**

Bridgeview, IL

**Susan Plankey**

Chicago, IL

**Brianne Jensen**

Arlington Heights, IL

**Cecilia Robles**

Chicago, IL

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE CLASS OF 2026

**Lammy Ahmed**  
Amarillo, TX

**Omar Al-Muhtasib**  
Huntington Beach, CA

**Justin Baker**  
Queen Creek, AZ

**Marissa Canfield**  
Sparks, NV

**Nathan Fillmore**  
Gilbert, AZ

**Bryan Finneseth**  
Fargo, ND

**Brianna Fridley**  
East Troy, WI

**Emma Friel**  
Columbus, OH

**Haley Griffin**  
Austin, TX

**Rawan Hamadeh**  
Brookfield, WI

**Mckayla Hansen**  
Litchfield Park, AZ

**Kaleb Hawkins**  
Walla Walla, WA

**Lily Hemm**  
Troy, OH

**Paige Herzog**  
Lake Havasu City, AZ

**Vincent Hicks**  
Atlanta, GA

**Alexandra Hollabaugh**  
Riverside, CA

**Nathan Hum**  
Glendale, AZ

**Adina Kanan**  
Detroit, MI

**Spencer Kang**  
Camas, WA

**Hyunji Kim**  
Roseville, CA

**Madisyn Kovacs**  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Matthew Krom**  
St. Augustine, FL

**Marnie Martin**  
DeForest, WI

**Jonathan Marzecz**  
Spokane, WA

**Lori McCormick**  
Trafalgar, IN

**Sandra Munoz**  
Riverside, CA

**Aimee Nguyen**  
Glendale, AZ

**Andrew Oexmann**  
Phoenix, AZ

**Holly Parada**  
Bozeman, MT

**Jack Piper**  
Eau Claire, WI

**Jenna Revell**  
Pecatonica, IL

**Cathryn Robinson**  
Niceville, FL

**Marcus Sorensen**  
Parker, CO

**Madison Staab**  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Mia Sun**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Kylie Tanaka**  
Chandler, AZ

**Lauren Wells**  
Carmel, IN

**Rilee Willett**  
Manitowoc, WI

**Rory Williams**  
Boise, ID

**Joshua Wingert**  
Mesa, AZ

**Tabitha Wright**  
Linn Creek, MO

**Artem Zhosan**  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



## 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.



## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY

### Cardiovascular Science Program

Zachary Archer, M.S., CCP  
Kyle W. Dana, D.C., CP  
Nathaniel H. Darban, Ph.D., CP  
Chelsea Furnish, M.S., CCP  
Harry Hoerr, M.S., CCT  
Benjamin Mills, M.S., CCP  
Thomas Rath, M.P.S., CCP Emeritus  
Julie Steele-Pruett, M.S., CP

### Clinical Psychology Program

Angela M. Breitmeyer, Psy.D.  
Bhupin Butaney, Ph.D.  
Melissa Delgado-Flint, Psy.D., FT, CCTP  
Shannon Dodani, Psy.D.  
Adam Fried, Ph.D.  
Shefali Gandhi, Psy.D.  
Kate Jansen, Ph.D.  
Brad MacNeil, Ph.D.  
Marisa Menchola, Ph.D.  
Alexander Piatka, Ph.D.  
Thomas B. Virden, Ph.D., ABPP, BCB

### Nurse Anesthesia

Stormy Aikins, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Joe Bailon, D.N.P., CRNA  
Angie Burgess, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Kelli Clarke, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Rodney Fisher, Ph.D., CRNA  
Vincent Ford, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
David Good, D.N.P., CRNA  
Billy Harris, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Scott Imus, Ed.D., M.S.N., CRNA  
Kelly Larsen, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Morgan Morrow, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Lee Ranalli, D.N.P., CRNA  
Melissa Ranalli, D.N.P., CRNA  
Dorian Tate, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Janet Vaughn, D.N.A.P., CRNA  
Deanna Villalino, D.N.A.P., CRNA

### Occupational Therapy Program

Holly Hussey, O.T.D., OTR/L, CHT  
Holly Jones, O.T.D., OTR/L  
Alison de la Montaigne, Ed.D., OTR/L  
Cynthia Selim, D.Sc., OTR/L, BCP  
Katherine Schofield, D.H.S., OTR/L, CHT  
Mikaela Thompson, M.O.T., OTR/L  
Christopher Trujillo, O.T.D., OTR/L, PMP  
Tamara Turner, Ed.D., OTR/L  
Susan Tully, M.S., LAMFT, OTR/L

### Graduate Nursing Program

Nelson Bryant, Ph.D., M.S.N., M.B.A., FNP-C  
Anne Hedger, D.N.P., ACNP-BC, ANP-BC,  
CPNP-AC, ENP-BC  
Melanie Logue, Ph.D., D.N.P., APRN, FNP-C, FAANP

### Physician Assistant Program

Regan Alford, M.S.P.A.S., PA-C  
Deborah Black, M.S., PA-C  
Robyn Brown, D.M.Sc., M.S., PA-C  
Marcia Bouton, D.M.Sc., PA-C, DFAAPA  
Kimberly Carter, D.M.Sc., PA-C, RD  
Amber Herrick, M.S.P.A.S., PA-C  
Nicole Hamilton, M.P.A.S., PA-C  
Eve Hoover, D.M.Sc., PA-C, DFAAPA  
Noelle Sahar, M.M.S., PA-C  
Jim Stoehr, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Wild, D.O.

### Physical Therapy Program

Rita Ator, PT, D.P.T., OCS, COMT, ATC  
Patrice Ayala, PT, D.P.T., GCS, CEEA  
Roi Dennis Cayetano, PT, D.P.T.  
Celeste Delap, PT, D.P.T.  
Megan Eikenberry, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., NCS  
Mia Erickson, PT, Ed.D., CHT  
Jennifer Gruenhagen, PT, D.P.T., Ph.D.  
Rebecca Johnson, PT, D.P.T., CCS  
Mark Kargela, PT, D.P.T., OCS  
Margaret Klausing, PT, D.P.T., M.S.C.I.  
Lacey Frankland, PT, D.P.T., ATC, OCS, SCS  
Michael Lebec, PT, Ph.D.  
Andrea Lopes Sauers, PT, Ph.D.  
Jordan McCann, PT, D.P.T.  
Myles Melyon, PT, D.P.T., CCS  
Suzanne O'Neal, PT, D.P.T., D.H.Sc., NCS  
Kylie Scott, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., OCS, CMPT  
Josh Subialka, PT, D.P.T., D.Sc.  
Byron Russell, PT, Ph.D.  
**Speech Language Pathology Program**  
Jennifer Buckler, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Lisa Bunker, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Stephanie Christensen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Sharon Edwards, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Schea Fissel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Alisha Kleindel, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Audra Little, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Christine Meyer, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Melissa Rivera, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
A. Danielle Reed, Ed.D., CCC-SLP  
Stephanie Teale-Sanchez, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Ethan Wash, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Laura Weinrich, M.S., CCC-SLP

## 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.

**Arizona College of Optometry**

Discipline Color: Seafoam  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Discipline Color: Kelly Green  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine**

Discipline Color: Nile Green  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Dental Medicine–Arizona**

Discipline Color: Lilac  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies Biomedical Sciences Program**

Discipline Color: Gold  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies Precision Medicine Program**

Discipline Color: Gold  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies Public Health Program**

Discipline Color: Salmon  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Cardiovascular Science Program**

Discipline Color: Gold  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology Program (Doctor)**

Discipline Color: Royal Blue  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology Program (Master)**

Discipline Color: Gold  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Nurse Anesthesia Program**

Discipline Color: Apricot  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Nursing Program (Doctor)**

Discipline Color: Apricot  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Nursing Program (Master)**

Discipline Color: Apricot  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Program**

Discipline Color: Sage Green  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Program**

Discipline Color: Teal  
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 Pharmacy, Glendale**

Discipline Color: Olive  
Liner Color: Navy  
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Veterinary Medicine**

Discipline Color: Gray  
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. At Midwestern University, the hood is carried over the right arm of the graduate in the processional and is placed on the graduate during the ceremony.

### ***Tam***

All Midwestern University graduates wear black velvet tams with black (master's 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 Coins***

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. Midwestern University proudly presents graduates who are in the military or entering the military following graduation with a coin to honor their service to our country.

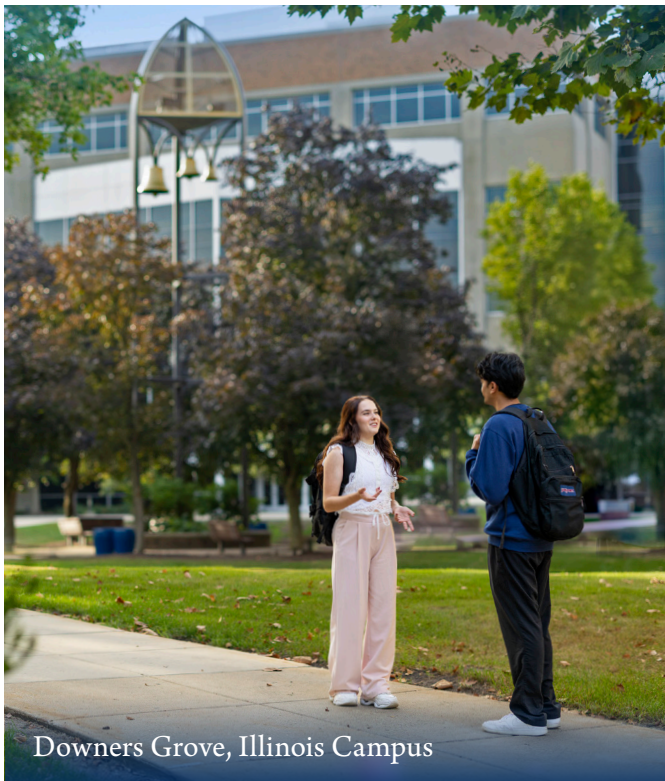
## HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1900 as the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Chicago, Illinois, Midwestern University began with a clear mission to educate healthcare professionals in a not-for-profit, student-centered environment. Early leadership and faculty built a strong reputation for academic excellence and hands-on clinical training, helping shape the future of osteopathic medicine.

The University's growth reflects both vision and responsiveness to the needs of healthcare. In 1986, the institution relocated to Downers Grove, Illinois, creating space for expanded programs across the health sciences. In 1995, Midwestern University established a second campus in Glendale, Arizona, significantly broadening its reach and impact. Over time, the University expanded to include programs in pharmacy, dental medicine, optometry, health sciences, podiatry, nursing, biomedical science, and veterinary medicine.

Today, Midwestern University is a comprehensive graduate university with two campuses, multiple colleges, and a wide range of healthcare programs. Students learn in modern facilities and gain valuable experience through interprofessional education, clinical education, and community-based clinics. The University's One Health initiative further emphasizes the connection between human, animal, and environmental health, preparing students to collaborate across disciplines to address complex global challenges.

Throughout its history, the University has remained committed to its founding principles of academic excellence, compassionate care, and student success, preparing our graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.





## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.  
*President and Chief Executive 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*

Megan Dallianis, Ed.D.  
*Dean of Student Services, Downers Grove Campus*

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*

Harold J. Haering, Jr., 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, Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine*

Sarah Radtke, Ed.D., ATC  
*Dean, College of Health Sciences,  
Downers Grove Campus*

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

Yir Gloria Yueh, Ph.D.  
*Provost*



SAHUARO HALL



*Tomorrow's Healthcare Team*

Glendale Campus  
19555 North 59th Avenue  
Glendale, Arizona 85308  
[www.midwestern.edu](http://www.midwestern.edu)