



**COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE**

2026 COMMENCEMENT



College of Veterinary Medicine
2026 Commencement

Midwestern University • Glendale Campus

Tuesday, the Second 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: Kathryn Wycislo, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVP
Associate Dean

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

Dean's Welcome: Carla Gartrell, D.V.M., J.D., DACVIM
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinarian's Oath: Jared Jaffey, D.V.M., M.S., DACVIM
Associate Professor

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Gartrell

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026

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

Student Remarks: Hannah Bryant and Elizabeth Powell
Co-Valedictorians, Class of 2026

Closing Remarks: Dr. Gartrell

Closing Reflection: Jessie Ziegler, D.V.M., M.S., DACVIM
Assistant Professor

Recessional

Announcer:

Jeffrey Thoren, D.V.M.

Hooders:

Patricia de Carvalho Ibrahim Obeid, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVAA

Mariana Cavalcanti, D.V.M., M.S., DACVAA

Clemence Chako, B.V.Sc., M.P.H., Ph.D., DACVIM

Zona Izumi, D.V.M.

Student Marshals:

Megan Davidson, D.V.M.

Joni Johnson, D.V.M.

Elizabeth Robbins, D.V.M.

Kara Thomas, D.V.M.

Faculty Marshals:

Patricia Bennett, D.V.M.

Hillary Herendeen, V.M.D.

Mary White, D.V.M., DACVP

Mace Bearers:

Margaret Brosnahan, D.V.M., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., DACVIM

Laura Waitt Wolker, D.V.M., DACVIM





COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

Donovan Addison
Raleigh, NC

Angela Agee
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Phoenix, AZ

Kelsey Bassett
Granite Falls, WA

Drake Basso
Phi Zeta Honor Society
San Martin, CA

Breanna Battaglia
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Las Vegas, NV

Dana Baumann
Emmons, MN

Anthony Bidawid
Farmington Hills, MI

Madison Blanchard
Crown Point, IN

Camille Bolos
Hercules, CA

Kaley Boone*
Artesia, NM

MacGregor Boswell
Seattle, WA

John Boules
Redondo Beach, CA

Victoria Bracamontes
Porterville, CA

Hannah Bryant
Co-Valedictorian
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Temecula, CA

Makenna Buckenmeyer
Fair Oaks, CA

Vivian Bueno Bueno
Acatlan de Juarez, Mexico

Bianca Burkhart
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Bakersfield, CA

Benjamin Castelli
Co-Valedictorian
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Mendham, NJ

Yung-En Chang
Scottsdale, AZ

A'Lexi Christiansen
Mesa, AZ

Sydney Cook
Nipomo, CA

Madison Cooper
Canton, OH

Hunter Cress
Co-Valedictorian
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Frisco, TX

Erica Crothers
Katy, TX

Marissa Crowley
Winter Garden, FL

Julie Dang
Garden Grove, CA

Keara Dean
Phoenix, AZ

Analisa Del Grosso
Phoenix, AZ

Abigayle deLaveaga
Wailuku, HI

Alyssa Deweerdt
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Ortonville, MI

Gurpinder Dhaliwal
Rochester, NY

Katelyn Drobny
Omaha, NE

Anthony Duran
Phoenix, AZ

Kathryn Durgan
Denver, CO

Megan Ensign
Scottsdale, AZ

Stephanie Escorza
Phi Zeta Honor Society
El Paso, TX

Brianna Espinosa
Avondale, AZ

Amanda Favilla
Modesto, CA

Anna Filchner
Bath, PA

Sylene Garcia
Phi Zeta Honor Society
Downey, CA

Paige Gorman
Stevensville, MD

Hannah Guenza
Elk Grove, CA

Skyellar Hall-Delarber

Indian Trail, NC

Julianna Hatch

Merced, CA

Sierra Hazlett

Flagstaff, AZ

Siera Hensley

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Cheyenne, WY

Jenna Jackson

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Chandler, AZ

Kyla Juarez

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Gilbert, AZ

Mahtab Khanezarrin

Atlanta, GA

Ashley Kim

Irvine, CA

Moonhong Kim

Upland, CA

Carmen Leslie

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Bellevue, ID

Bella Lopez-Giron

Pomona, CA

Chia-Hsin Ma

Taipei, Taiwan

Sophia Margaritis

Co-Valedictorian

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Grand Blanc, MI

Sierra Maria

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Littleton, CO

Veronica Martinez

El Paso, TX

Molly McLinden

Manistee, MI

Jacob Merkley

Laramie, WY

Christopher Minami

Honolulu, HI

Heather Mischel

Groton, MA

Max Muniz

El Paso, TX

Briana Muñoz

Surprise, AZ

Sandy Navarro

Los Angeles, CA

Karen Nevarez

Phoenix, AZ

Richie Nguyenphat

Houston, TX

Taylor Nisser

Scottsdale, AZ

Susan Obregon Chavez

Fountain Valley, CA

Julia Orcutt

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Mesa, AZ

Nicole Ortiz

Bloomington, IN

Mercy Paine

New York City, NY

Rebecca Payenski

Whitehouse Station, NJ

Daniella Perez

Fresno, CA

Devan Perkins

Gilbert, AZ

Erin Persons

Nassau, NY

Kiana Pisula

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Sonora, CA

Kathryn Pizzuti

Port Washington, NY

Alexandria Polito

Scottsdale, AZ

Elizabeth Powell

Co-Valedictorian

Phi Zeta Honor Society

San Diego, CA

Hannah Primrose

Phoenix, AZ

Brandon Ramsbottom

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Oswego, IL

Morgan Reich

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Orlando, FL

Joel Reiter

East Brunswick, NJ

Madison Richardson

Queen Creek, AZ

Jon Rodriguez

Neosho, MO

Belle Rotan

Burleson, TX

Ania Sakrisson

Chicago, IL

Niaz Sassounian

Los Angeles, CA

Kathryn Sawatzky

Raleigh, NC

Maddox Seibel

Northglenn, CO

Cassandra Sleboda

Plainfield, CT

McKenna Souva

Lowville, NY

Savannah Spahn

Peoria, AZ

Gianna Stark

Park Ridge, NJ

Gracie Stauffer

Loysville, PA

Adriauna Stokes

Syracuse, UT

Erykah Strong

San Diego, CA

Elizabeth Tamas

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Kiarra Tarver

Gilbert, AZ

Julia Tawil

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Avon, MA

Sarah Teater

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Hilliard, OH

Kristyna Thompson

Brentwood, CA

Bridget Thor

Thompson Falls, MT

Sabrina Tituskin

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Novi, MI

Juliana Tom

Phi Zeta Honor Society

South Pasadena, CA

Julia Trafaconda

Killingly, CT

Maddison Trawick*

Jacksonville, FL

Faith Trowbridge

Ione, CA

Panagiotis Tsivikas

East Meadow, NY

Asia Valdez

Albuquerque, NM

Alma Valdez-Valencia

Douglas, AZ

Valery Varela

Oswego, IL

Jacqueline Vargas Sierra

Fontana, CA

Lauren Veloudis Padilla

Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Kristen Wander

San Antonio, TX

Kacey Wellard

Yuma, AZ

Alayna Werner

Appleton, WI

Camille Weststeyn

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Chino, CA

Kaylin Williams

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Rogers, AR

Olivia Williamson

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Sterling, MA

Sheri Woo

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Laguna Hills, CA

Katarina Wulstein

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Lake Tahoe, CA

Shirley Yeung

Phi Zeta Honor Society

Hong Kong, China



VETERINARIAN'S OATH

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.



COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE FACULTY

Anatomy

Justin Georgi, Ph.D.
 Aryeh Grossman, Ph.D.
 Wade Grow, Ph.D.
 Margaret Hall, Ph.D.
 Christopher Heesy, Ph.D.
 Andrew Lee, Ph.D.
 Leigha Lynch, Ph.D.
 Matthew O'Neill, Ph.D.
 Jose Rodriguez Sosa, Ph.D.
 Erin Simons, Ph.D.
 Heather Smith, Ph.D.
 Kathryn Townsend, Ph.D.
 Carrie Veilleux, Ph.D.

Anatomical Pathology

Emely Castelo, D.V.M.
 Tamara Chamberlin, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVP
 Sylvia Ferguson, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVP
 JungKeun Lee, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVP
 Erica Moscoso, D.V.M.
 Jason Struthers, D.V.M., DACVP
 Theresa Wang Chin Wong, D.V.M.

Anesthesia

Mariana Cavalcanti, D.V.M., DACVAA
 Anderson da Cunha, D.V.M., DACVAA
 Patricia de Carvalho Ibrahim Obeid,
 D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVAA
 Tokiko Kushiro-Banker, B.V.M., M.S.
 Ph.D., DACVAA
 Ross McKenzie, D.V.M., DACVAA

Biomedical Sciences

Lori Buhlman, Ph.D.
 Delrae Eckman, Ph.D.
 Nathan Johnson, Ph.D.

Clinical Pathology

Elis Fisk, D.V.M., DACVP
 Thainá Lunardon, D.V.M.
 Mary White, D.V.M., DACVP
 BinXi Wu, D.V.M., DACVP
 Kathryn Wycislo, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVP

Communications

Jeffrey Thoren, D.V.M.

Emergency/Urgent Care

Megan Davidson, D.V.M.
 Cassandra Rojas, D.V.M.

Equine Medicine

Margaret Brosnahan, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM
 Laura Waitt Wolker, D.V.M., DACVIM

Equine Surgery

Sarah Matyjaszek, D.V.M., DACVS
 Ken Sullins, D.V.M., DACVS

Zoo/Exotics Medicine

Jesse Bautista, D.V.M.
 Alexandra Goe, D.V.M., DACZM
 Sean Perry, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Farm Animal Medicine

Clemence Chako, B.V.Sc., Ph.D.,
 M.P.H., DACVIM
 Jeffrey Olivarez, D.V.M., DACVIM
 Jessie Ziegler, D.V.M., DACVIM

Microbiology

Nicholas Haley, D.V.M., Ph.D.
 John Hnida, Ph.D.
 Padmaja Jakka, Ph.D., DACVM
 Sam Katzif, Ph.D.
 Lisa Kronstad, Ph.D.
 Kathryn Leyva, Ph.D.
 Adebayo Molehin, Ph.D.
 Ogi Okwumabua, Ph.D.

Pharmacology

Vanthida Huang, Pharm.D., FCCP
 Shaleen Korch, Ph.D.
 Jeff Norris, D.V.M., Ph.D.
 Pamela Potter, Ph.D.

Precision Medicine

Kimberly Bussey, Ph.D.
 Garilyn Jentarra, Ph.D.

Public Health

Felicia Trembath, M.P.H., Ph.D.
 Mariah Zeigler, D.V.M., M.P.H., DACVPM

Research

Weidang Li, M.D., Ph.D.
 Catrina Sims-Robinson, Ph.D.
 Chad VanDenBerg, Pharm.D.

Physiology

Layla Al-Nakkash, Ph.D.
 Christopher Olson, Ph.D.
 Ann Revill, Ph.D.
 Tobias Riede, D.V.M., Ph.D.
 Johana Vallejo-Elias, Ph.D.

Shelter Medicine

Robert Buntz, D.V.M.
 Hillary Herendeen, V.M.D.
 Rachael Kreisler, V.M.D., M.S.C.E., DACVPM

Small Animal General Medicine

Morgan Bryant, D.V.M.
 Justin Gonzalez, D.V.M.
 Alexandria McHenry, D.V.M.
 Ireland Lee, D.V.M.
 Caitlyn Logan, D.V.M.
 Emma Potter, D.V.M.
 Celine Sylvester, D.V.M.
 Huridises Torrealba, D.V.M.
 Maira Villa, D.V.M.

Small Animal Internal Medicine

Carla Gartrell, D.V.M., J.D., DACVIM
 Jared Jaffey, D.V.M., DACVIM
 Rachael Moghaddam, D.V.M.
 Laura Rayhel, D.V.M., DACVIM
 Alexandra Slon, D.V.M.

Small Animal Primary Care

Patricia Bennett, D.V.M.
 Zona Izumi, D.V.M.
 Joni Johnson, D.V.M.
 Elizabeth Robbins, D.V.M.
 Kara Thomas, D.V.M.

Small Animal Surgery

Paula Bartolome Gadea, D.V.M.
 Benjamin Hulsey, D.V.M.
 Renato Ramos, D.V.M., M.D., Ph.D.

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.

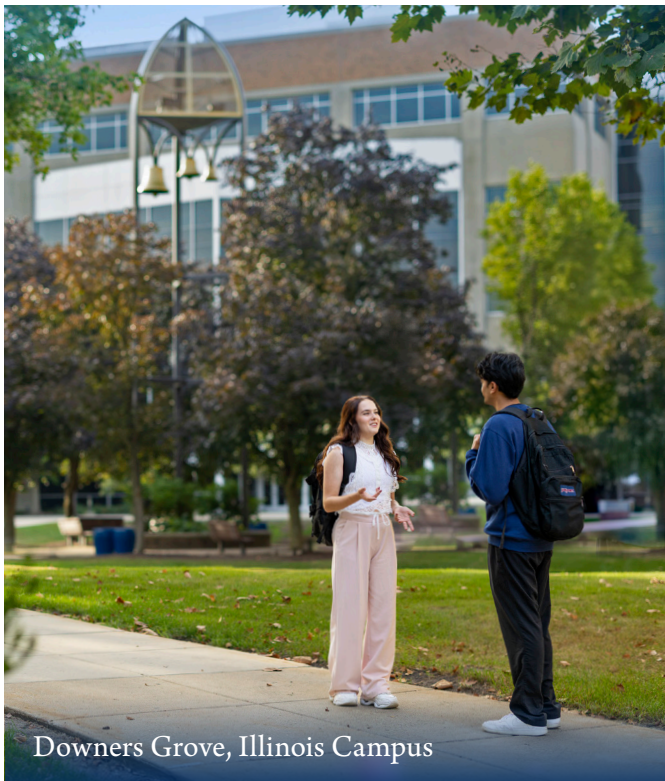
HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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