



COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

2026 COMMENCEMENT



College of Health Sciences
2026 Commencement

Midwestern University • Downers Grove Campus

Thursday, the Twenty-Seventh of August,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six



ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance*
THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

Introduction: Megan Dallianis, Ed.D.
Dean of Students, Downers Grove Campus

National Anthem: *The Star-Spangled Banner* by F.S. Key
Haley Rose Slade, *Physician Assistant Program, Class of 2026*

Opening Reflection: Connie B. Natvig, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology Program

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

Dean's Welcome: Sarah Radtke, Ed.D., ATC
Dean, College of Health Sciences, Downers Grove Campus

Health Sciences Oath: Lauren D. Trillo, D.M.S., PA-C
Co-Director Clinical Education, Physician Assistant Program

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Radtke

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026

Student Remarks: Jakob Edward McGraw
Class President, Physician Assistant Program

Closing Remarks: Jocelin Sisto, M.A., M.M.S., PA-C
Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Program

Closing Reflection: Ms. Sisto

Recessional

Announcer:

Lorna H. London, Ph.D.

Student Marshals:

Abby J. Hurley, Psy.D.

Jeffrey P. Maney, Ph.D.

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

Sandhya Noronha, M.D.

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

Faculty Marshal:

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

Hooders:

Clinical Psychology Program

Michelle M. Lee, Ph.D., ABPP

Ann M. Sauer, Ph.D., ABPP

Physician Assistant Program

Don T. Martinez, D.M.Sc., PA-C

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

Mace Bearers

Rachel A. Piszczor, Psy.D.

Lauren M. Sbarbaro, Psy.D., LADC

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Alexandra Kaye Adams
Beaumont, TX

Chiamaka Ihejirika
Philadelphia, PA

Sitara S. Puliya
Cerritos, CA

Rose Joann Baka
Columbia, MO

Brianna Lynette Kapur
Germantown, MD

Sam Ritger
Fond du Lac, WI

Cameron Robert Cole
Oswego, IL

Tyler Kukla
Troy, MI

Maria Rowen
Alexandria, VA

Patricia Corasis
Hickory Hills, IL

Julie Elizabeth Lochbaum
Geneva, IL

Erin Maureen Wallace
Garden City, NY

Megan Feldkamp
Aurora, OH

Neil Francis O'Shaughnessy
Niles, IL

Lauren Walsh
Sugar Grove, IL

Guadalupe Hernandez
Evanston, IL

Emily Claire Papaeliou
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Gabrielle Chiffon Worthy
Rahway, NJ

Duaa Sameer Hijaz
Schererville, IN

Hirangi Patel
Mount Prospect, IL

Elizabeth Yung
Chicago, IL

MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Caitlyn Marie Brown
Aurora, IL

Nour Habib
Madison Heights, MI

Melody Jovana Ramirez
Houston, TX

Briyanna Bullock
Chicago, IL

Jack Edward Leahy
Glen Ellyn, IL

Erica Vieira Ritzmann
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Lea Faouaz
Schaumburg, IL

Sydney McMillin
Delaware, OH

Paige Kristina Sackman
Frankfort, IL

Skylar Jane Fay
Frisco, TX

Kaitlyn Joy Meyr
Darien, IL

Dania Salman
O'Fallon, MO

Megan Anne Fortuno
Cibola, TX

Jordan Alexandra Mikesell
Springfield, IL

Kaila Savage
Clear Lake, IA

Isabel Maria Kanoelehua Gampon
Kaua'i, HI

Dominic Narcissi
Mokena, IL

Lauren Ashley Steidl
Brookfield, WI

Marleigh Carolina Giliberto
Glastonbury, CT

Hannah Nayar
Springfield, MO

Devesh Shrikrishna Tupkar
Memphis, TN

Sophia M. Grippo
Shorewood, IL

Anthony Paixao
Wilmington, NC

Elizabeth Lauren Yorko
Rochester, NY

Ashley Jordan Gunderson-Morris
Elk Mound, WI

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

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AWARDS

Alexandra Kaye Adams
Dean's Achievement Award

Sydney McMillin
Professional Excellence Award

Isabel Maria Kanoelehua Gampon
Leadership Award

Erica Vieira Ritzmann
Humanitarian Award

Duaa Sameer Hijaz
Department Citizenship Award

Lauren Walsh
Interdisciplinary Engagement Award

Guadalupe Hernandez
*The Dr. Wendell Carpenter Award
for Professionalism and Diversity*

Briyanna Bullock
Hirangi Patel
Research Excellence Award

Rose Joann Baka
Guadalupe Hernandez
Judith Ann Sbarbaro
Advanced Teaching Mentorship Program

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Omar Zuhair Abdallah
Chicago, IL

Delaney Blume
Meridian, ID

Danny Nguyen Do
Buena Park, CA

Muath Abdelsalam
Burbank, IL

Madeleine Bokich
Burr Ridge, IL

Jayla Denise Fisher
Southaven, MS

Rashil Abuhatoum
Franklin, WI

Hanna Lois Brann
Kalispell, MT

Amanda Mary Flynn
New Lenox, IL

Isabella Adams
Peoria, IL

Julie Claire Brizzolara
Des Plaines, IL

Tyler Ernest Frank
Arlington Heights, IL

Zaina Ahmed
Willowbrook, IL

Anna Maria Bryjak
Hinsdale, IL

Gianna Christine Gilbert
The Woodlands, TX

Madeline Therese Allen
Naperville, IL

Stephanie Dolores Cajka
Lindenhurst, IL

Eleanor Anne Henderson
Crest Hill, IL

Saumya Amanchi
Buffalo Grove, IL

Juanita Castiblanco
Bloomington, IL

Katherine Grace Hoban
Glen Ellyn, IL

Jessica Amaral
Buffalo Grove, IL

Olivia Marie Coaster
Byron Center, MI

Peter Davies Horth
La Crosse, WI

Alisha Uzma Asif
Edmond, OK

Carolyn Marie Cocagne
Danville, CA

Samira Hossain
Canton, GA

Abigaël Katherine Bailey
Shorewood, IL

Alexa Jordan De Las Alas Davis
Arlington Heights, IL

Melissa Ibrahim
Fenton, MI

Kaytlyn Marie Baldwin
Osceola, IN

Lillian Grace Davisson
Elmhurst, IL

Victoria Kathleen Johnson
Walworth, NY

Rutu Bhalavat
Rockford, IL

Alyssa Jane Demma
Algonquin, IL

Morgan Jones
Frisco, TX

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES (CONTINUED)

Gabriella Grace Keidl
Germantown, WI

Jordan Naramore
Brodhead, WI

Haley Rose Slade
Ventura, CA

Elizabeth Kathryn Kliros
Geneva, IL

Shima Omar
Orland Park, IL

Toni Samantha Sneed
Saint Charles, MO

Carolyn Elise Kosek
Fort Worth, TX

Joanne Park
Auburn, AL

Garity Stock
Chandler, AZ

Katelynn Marie Larue
Machesney Park, IL

Bansri A. Patel
Lakeville, MA

Maryam Fatima Syed
Lake in the Hills, IL

Allison Rose Loewenstein
Highland Park, IL

Roshni Patel
Canton, MI

Mya Elizabeth Tomashek
Hartford, WI

Katherine Julia Lunn
Phoenix, AZ

Nallely Preciado
Darien, IL

Robin Boyd Tripp
South Bend, IN

Rosemary Ma
Vancouver, Canada

Alexander Guy Quesada
Los Angeles, CA

Mary Claire Turner
Gurnee, IL

Mekha Manoj
Skokie, IL

Trinity Ramirez
Glendale Heights, IL

Zoe Anne Weil
West Bloomfield, MI

Jakob Edward McGraw
Montgomery, IL

Chloe Richards
Denver, CO

Melissa Wiebke
Onalaska, WI

Claire McGurk
Glen Ellyn, IL

Gabriella Marie Rizvi
Lewisville, TX

Erin Wiese
Lino Lakes, MN

Brady Thomas McIntyre
Davenport, IA

Kaleigh Marie Rugg
Lombard, IL

Jeanna Wong Pammer
Arlington Heights, IL

Emily Rose Moreira
Boston, MA

Catherine Ryan
Ann Arbor, MI

Morgan Wright
Mattawan, MI

Melissa Munoz
Chicago, IL

Sandra Anna Samborski
River Grove, IL

Haley Brielle Zak
Macomb, MI

Marissa J. Mussatto
Plainfield, IL

Leora Savarimuthu
Hoffman Estates, IL

Samantha Zarembski
Oswego, IL

Julia F. Nakos
Barrington, IL

Bhumi Sureshkumar Shah
Chicago, IL

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AWARDS

Victoria Kathleen Johnson
Dean's Achievement Award

Jakob Edward McGraw
Leadership Award

Alexander Guy Quesada
Faculty Award

Lillian Grace Davisson
*Tom Norini Physician Assistant Program
Service and Leadership Award*

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

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.
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
Don T. Martinez, D.M.Sc., 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
Jocelin Sisto, M.A., M.M.S., PA-C
Lauren D. Trillo, D.M.S., PA-C

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: Salmon

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. 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.

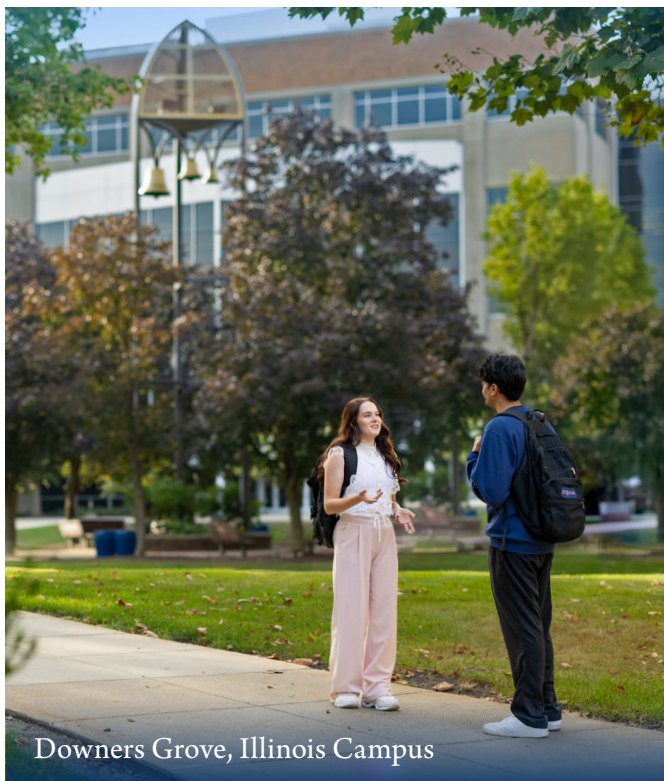
HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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.



Downers Grove, Illinois Campus



Glendale, Arizona Campus

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 Students, 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

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

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

Yir Gloria Yueh, Ph.D.
Provost



Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

Downers Grove Campus
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Downers Grove, IL 60515
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