



**CHICAGO COLLEGE  
OF OPTOMETRY**

**2026 COMMENCEMENT**



Chicago College of Optometry  
**2026 Commencement**

Midwestern University • Downers Grove Campus

Thursday, the Twenty-Eighth of May,  
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  
Emma Olinger, *Chicago College of Optometry, Class of 2029*

**Opening Reflection:** Jenna Williams, O.D, FAAO  
*Director of Clinical Operations*

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

**Dean's Welcome:** Brianne Hobbs, O.D, Ph.D, FAAO  
*Dean, Chicago College of Optometry*

**Optometric Oath:** Daniel Deligio, O.D, FAAO, FSLs  
*Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs*

**Presentation of Graduates:** Dr. Hobbs

**Conferral of Degrees:** Dr. Baker

**Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026**

**Student Remarks:** Isabelle Ampe  
*Class of 2026 Valedictorian*

**Closing Remarks:** Dr. Hobbs

**Closing Reflection:** John Gialousakis, O.D., EdM, FAAO  
*Director of Student Achievement*

**Recessional**

**Announcer:**

Samantha Rice, O.D., FAAO

**Student Marshals:**

Shannon Carmo, O.D.

Arijit Chakraborty, Ph.D., FAAO

Dana Rhea, O.D., FAAO

Margaret Wilczek, O.D.

Hye Seon Yoo, O.D.

**Faculty Marshals:**

Jenny Lau, O.D.

Vakishan Nadarajah, O.D., FAAO, FSLs

**Hooders:**

John Gialousakis, O.D., EdM, FAAO

Jenelle Mallios, O.D., FAAO

**Mace Bearers:**

Frederick Collison, O.D., FAAO

Clinton Prestwich, O.D.



## DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY CLASS OF 2026

**Victoria Jean Abbott**

*Naples, FL*

*Cum laude*

**Khalilah Safiyya Brooks**

*Villa Park, IL*

*Magna cum laude*

**Sarah Goy**

*Bloomington, IN*

*Magna cum laude*

**Lucy Grace Adlfinger**

*Milan, IL*

*Magna cum laude*

**Lauren Elena Byars**

*Sterling Heights, MI*

**Matthew James Graessle**

*Naperville, IL*

**Stephany Ann Aeling**

*Columbus, OH*

**Grace Isabel Cory**

*Battle Lake, MN*

**Abdallah Hasan**

*Oak Lawn, IL*

**Safah Siddig Ahmed**

*Royal Palm beach, FL*

*Cum laude*

**Elizabeth P. Cowden**

*Ada, MI*

**Rawan Herfy**

*Troy, MI*

**Isabelle Rose Ampe**

*Maple Grove, MN*

*Summa cum laude*

**Catherine Lilliana Dudek**

*Lake in the Hills, IL*

**Taylor Chi Ho**

*Beaumont, TX*

**Hayley Erica Anderson**

*Boulder, CO*

**Andrew Fleck**

*Carmel, IN*

**Phillip Lo-Tak Kaltenthaler**

*Copley, OH*

**Althea Anne Landrito Aquino**

*Boulder, CO*

**Kayla Lok Lam Fung**

*Windsor, ON*

**Balpreet Kaur**

*Columbus, OH*

**Alex Bahri**

*West Bloomfield, MI*

**Kayla Gerber**

*Cameron, WI*

**Nasim Khan**

*Sterling Heights, MI*

**Jennifer Estelle Berg**

*Eagle, ID*

**Michael Jeffrey Girardin**

*Phoenix, AZ*

*Cum laude*

**Evileen Khoshaba**

*Commerce Charter Township, MI*

**Gurjot Rachael Bhullar**

*Mississauga, ON*

**Merin Kodenkandeth**

*Toronto, ON*

**Sabika Lakhani**

*Algonquin, IL*

**Riya Patel**

*Tampa, FL*

**Tubha Shaikh**

*Houston, TX*

**Bryan Charles Layton**

*Oak Ridge, PA*

**Sandra Anwar Raikany**

*West Bloomfield, MI*

**McKenna Mohr Shanfeld**

*Bemidji, MN*

*Cum laude*

**Adam William Lee**

*Des Moines, IA*

**Aleksandra Reyfman**

*Staten Island, NY*

**Gurpartap Singh**

*Carteret, NJ*

**Celina Nicole Lee**

*Aurora, CO*

**Eric Lee Robertson**

*Rocky Mount, NC*

**Jasmine Kaur Soomal**

*Cambridge, ON*

**Shreya S. Mallajosyula**

*Bloomfield Hills, MI*

**Komal K. Saini**

*Chestermere, AB*

**Mark Starovoytov**

*Brandon, SD*

**Matthew Israel Martinez**

*Dalton, GA*

**Enita Saljic**

*Sterling Heights, MI*

**Anthony Tzveyn**

*Skokie, IL*

*Cum laude*

**Shaina Mathews**

*Morton Grove, IL*

**Merna Sana**

*Warren, MI*

**Alec William Verven**

*Bloomington, IL*

*Summa cum laude*

**Lyndsay Taylor Michael**

*Pataskala, OH*

**Alexis Leigh Saringer**

*North Olmsted, OH*

*Cum laude*

**Sarah D. Wilson**

*Gahanna, OH*

**Anum Nadeemullah**

*Ann Arbor, MI*

**Joshua Frank Schubert**

*Cambridge, OH*

*Magna cum laude*

**Jasmine Anna Wurl**

*Saint Paul, MN*

**Linnea Nguyen**

*Lincoln, NE*

**Tyler Joe Sealock**

*Plymouth, MN*

*Cum laude*

**Andrew Corley Zellner**

*Chattanooga, TN*

**Oziel Eliud Ortiz**

*Edinburg, TX*



## OPTOMETRIC OATH

With full deliberation, I freely and solemnly pledge that:

**I AFFIRM** that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.

**I WILL** practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

**I WILL** uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

**I WILL** provide professional care for the diverse populations who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

**I WILL** work to expand access to quality care and improve health equity for all communities.

**I WILL** place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.

**I WILL** hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

**I WILL** advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

**I WILL** strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

**I WILL** share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow doctors of optometry and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

**I WILL** do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as a doctor of optometry.

**I HEREBY** commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.



## CHICAGO COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY FACULTY

Aubrey Breithaupt, O.D., FOVDR

Shannon Carmo, O.D.

Ari Chakraborty, Ph.D., FAAO

Frederick Collison, O.D., FAAO

Jessica Conroy, O.D., FAAO, FSLs

Daniel Deligio, O.D., FAAO, FSLs

Jenny Geevarghese, O.D., FAAO

John Gialousakis, O.D., EdM, FAAO

Neha Gulati, O.D.

Brianne Hobbs, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO

Konstantina Kalas, O.D., FAAO

Jenny Lau, O.D.

Jennelle Mallios, O.D., FAAO

Vakishan Nadarajah, O.D., FAAO, FSLs

Clinton Prestwich, O.D., FAAO

Adrienne Quan, O.D., FAAO

Dana Rhea, O.D., FAAO

Samantha Rice, O.D., FAAO

Suraj Upadhyaya, O.D., PhD, FAAO

Margaret Wilczek, O.D.

Jenna Williams, O.D., FAAO

Parres Wright, O.D., FAAO

Hye Seon Yoo, O.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.

#### **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.

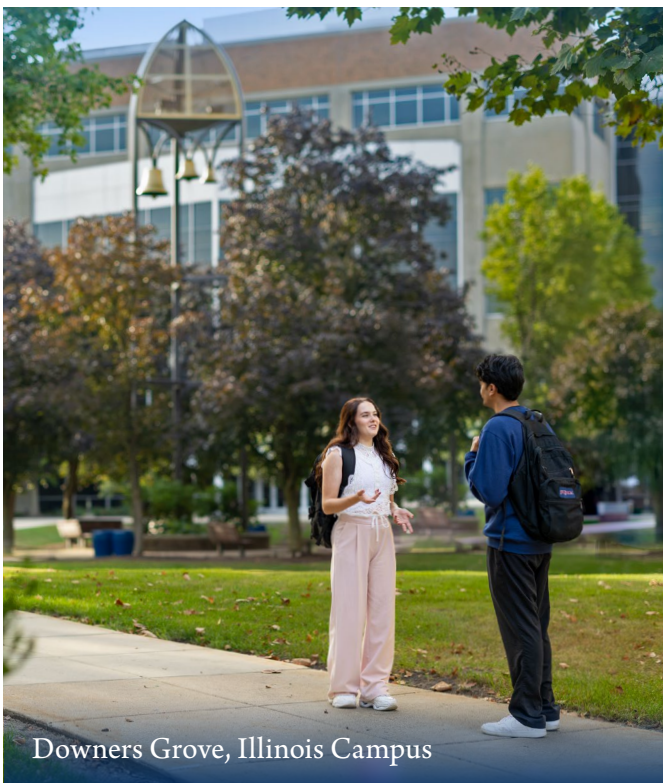
## HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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.



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

Yir Gloria Yuch, Ph.D.  
*Provost*



*Tomorrow's Healthcare Team*

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