



**COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**

2026 COMMENCEMENT



College of Health Sciences
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

Opening Reflection: Teresa Elliott Burke, PT, D.P.T., M.H.S.
Clinical Professor, Physical Therapy 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: Janey Prodoehl, PT, Ph.D., CCTT
Professor, Physical Therapy Program

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Radtke

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026

Student Remarks: Kate Kristen Patton
Class of 2026 Vice-President, Speech-Language Pathology Program

Closing Remarks: Balaji Rangarathnam, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Associate Professor, Speech-Language Pathology Program

Closing Reflection: Dr. Rangarathnam

Recessional

Announcer:

Joseph J. Krzak, PT, Ph.D., PCS

Student Marshals:

Miriam Carroll-Alfano, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CBIS

Judith Burton Hess, PT, D.H.S., OCS

Kimberly S. Hoffer, M.A., CCC-SLP

Seth J. Kress, PT, D.P.T., DHSc, OCS

Lisa Mahaffey, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Faculty Marshals:

Audrey Bowlds, M.S., CCC-SLP

Lisa J. Knecht-Sabres, D.H.S., OTR/L

Hooders:

Physical Therapy Program

Elizabeth A. Campione, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., CLT-LANA

Bhupinder Singh, PT, Ph.D.

Occupational Therapy Program

Anne Kiraly-Alvarez, O.T.D., OTR/L, SCSS

Mark Kovic, O.T.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Speech-Language Pathology Program

Nicole Gilbert, M.A., CCC-SLP

Jonathan P. Wilson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Mace Bearers

Gifty Abraham, O.T.D., OTR/L

Susanne A. Higgins, O.T.D., OTR/L, CHT

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Orlando Abrego
Chicago, IL

Emily Grace Anderson
Batavia, IL

Joseph Bailey
Marshall, MI

Olivia Kay Beller
Lindenhurst, IL

Margaret Mary Bettinardi
Palos Heights, IL

Katherine Elisabeth Blakeley
Carol Stream, IL

Ryan Bloom
O'Fallon, IL

Brenda Bravo-Mendez
Villa Park, IL

Avanti J. Brown
Brookfield, IL

Ryan Carli
Darien, IL

Anthony Vincent Catalano
Arlington Heights, IL

Matthew Thomas Crane
Homer Glen, IL

Emalee Depa
Mount Prospect, IL

Ariana Doroskin
Hoffman Estates, IL

Nikita Gajjar
Oak Forest, IL

Dante Thavee Hemsouvanh
Champaign, IL

Madeline Marie Howland
Batavia, IL

Abdullah O. Hussien
Orland Park, IL

Benjamin Johlie
Geneva, IL

Carleigh Marie Johnson
Kankakee, IL

Setareh Kaikavousi
Aurora, IL

Alexsander Damien Kelsey
Kirkville, NY

Julia Sookkyung Kim
Batavia, IL

Peter Kolodziejcki
Niles, IL

Salvatore Alexander LaMantia
Riverside, IL

Livia Lambrecht
Overland Park, KS

Lauren Bari Cabansag Limpin
Mokena, IL

Blake Lowenberg
Summerville, GA

Magdalena Lyszczyk
Chicago, IL

Rena Marompon
Schaumburg, IL

Abigail Mazurek
Darien, IL

Felica Marie McCroy
Creve Coeur, IL

Madeline McGrath
Oak Lawn, IL

Michaela Leeann Obermark
Kansas City, MO

Angelina Rochelle Rangel
Aurora, IL

Hannah Maria Ricci
Lisle, IL

Jamie Skvarla
Tinley Park, IL

Jordan Smith
Carol Stream, IL

Nicholas A. Teng
Arlington Heights, IL

Erin Marie Van Draska
Bloomington, IL

Alexa Wild
Midland, MI

Stanley Madayanakavil Xavier
Elmhurst, IL

Cade Ryuji Yamamoto
Fullerton, CA

Peter Sung Ho Yon
Chicago, IL

Teal and Gold Cord Denotes American Council of Academic Physical Therapy National Honor Society Inductees

PHYSICAL THERAPY AWARDS

Madeline McGrath
*Dean's Achievement
Award*

Setareh Kaikavousi
*Professional Service
Award*

Alexsander Damien Kelsey
*Professional Service
Award*

Cade Ryuji Yamamoto
*Professional Service
Award*

Jordan Smith
*Community Service
Award*

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Inshra Ahmed
Pingree Grove, IL

Camille Hurta
Palos Hills, IL

Mary Vestal
Oak Park, IL

Katherine Elizabeth Alberts *
Naperville, IL

Hannah Joy Simons Jones
Washington, MO

Anneliese Mary Wojciechowski
Naperville, IL

Cayla Rose Cohen
Thousand Oaks, CA

Lauren Kelly
Cary, NC

Walker Paul Fladt
Lafayette, LA

Katelyn Rose Lamb
Highlands Ranch, CO

Kailey Gasik
Aurora, IL

Taylor Ann Lerman
Grayslake, IL

Martina Golaszewski
Chicago, IL

Christin V. Mathew
Yorkville, IL

Lia Paz Gonzalez
Riverside, IL

McKenzie Jo Pflaum
Lakeville, MN

Jacqueline M. Grabill
Niles, IL

Leigh Reisberg
La Grange Highlands, IL

Michael Hahn
Skokie, IL

Amber Rose Reynolds
River Grove, IL

Hailey Ann Haumann
Naperville, IL

Laina Elizabeth Runyon
Bloomington-Normal, IL

Caleigh Grace Huber
Charleston, SC

Marianne Sydney Soriano
La Grange, IL

Royal Blue and Gold Cord Denotes American Occupational Therapy Foundation Pi Theta Epsilon National Honor Society Inductees

**Also receiving the Master of Public Health degree*

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARDS

McKenzie Jo Pflaum
Dean's Achievement Award

Camille Hurta
Practice Leadership Service Award

Hannah Joy Simons Jones
Practice Leadership Compassion Award

Lauren Kelly
OT Scholar Award

Marianne Sydney Soriano
Spirit of Occupational Therapy Award

Laina Elizabeth Runyon
Occupational Therapy Ambassador Award

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Anabella Abigail Alvarez
Joliet, IL

Ashtyn Olivia Gross
Noblesville, IN

Anjali Mutholam
Orland Park, IL

Sophia Louise Bachman
Lombard, IL

Faith Herman
Chicago, IL

Athanasia Paraskevopoulos
Arlington Heights, IL

Anishmah Banu
Addison, IL

Maria Rose Hoffart
West Des Moines, IA

Kate Kristen Patton
San Antonio, TX

Addison Marlene Michelle Bean
Dwight, IL

Zoe Argiro Johnsen
Glen Ellyn, IL

Molly Maureen Peterson
Palos Hills, IL

Lauren Bryant-Ridgway
Burr Ridge, IL

Angelica Kielbus
Glenview, IL

Kassie Marie Pierson
Plainfield, IL

Aliya Budman
Buffalo Grove, IL

Grace Judith Ladd
New Lenox, IL

Dunia Qaisi
Tinley Park, IL

Bryan Ciabattoni
Naperville, IL

Jordan Michele Legittino
Bartlett, IL

Samantha Kimberly Ramos
Bloomington, IL

Sara Clapp
Park City, IL

Emily Elizabeth Lemaire
Grand Rapids, MI

Kathleen Mary Kelly Shereck
Riverside, IL

Alicia Grace Diol
Wauconda, IL

Ava Marie Lukacsek
Whiting, IN

Sakina Simba
Westmont, IL

Margaret Anna Durkin
Glen Ellyn, IL

Emma Alexandra Manukian
Arlington Heights, IL

Elaine Ann Stribley
Woodridge, IL

Delaney Marie Eminger
Naperville, IL

Dannah Leigh Casco Medina
Naperville, IL

Isabelle Brigitta Suto
Arlington Heights, IL

Arianna Marie Fontanez
Bensenville, IL

Grace Michel
Naperville, IL

Mae Syouri
Palos Hills, IL

Alyssa Goedert
Naperville, IL

Stephanie Morales
Skokie, IL

Rachael Frances Walsh
Elgin, IL

Gold Cord Denotes National Student Speech Language Hearing Association Honors

Red and Gold Cord Denotes National Student Speech Language Hearing Association Officer/High Honor Recipient

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AWARDS

Arianna Marie Fontanez
Dean's Achievement Award

Faith Herman
Leadership Award

Maria Rose Hoffart
Professional Service Award

Faith Herman
Research Award

Samantha Kimberly Ramos
Spotlight 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

Physical Therapy Program

Jane Borgehammar, PT, D.Sc., M.S., OCS, FAAOMPT, DipMDT
Gabrielle Brazg, PT, D.P.T., NCS
Elizabeth A. Campione, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., CLT-LANA
Christine Conroy, PT, D.P.T., Ph.D., FNAP
Thomas J. Dillon, PT, DSc, OCS, COMT
Teresa Elliott Burke, PT, D.P.T., M.H.S.
Christian C. Evans, PT, Ph.D.
Christopher R. Hagan, PT, D.P.T., OCS, FAAOMPT
Timothy A. Hanke, PT, Ph.D.
Judith Burton Hess, PT, D.H.S., OCS
Kent E. Irwin, PT, D.H.S., M.S., GCS
Kelly Krese, PT, D.P.T., NCS
Seth J. Kress, PT, D.P.T., DHSc, OCS
Joseph J. Krzak, PT, Ph.D., PCS
Janey Prodoehl, PT, Ph.D., CCTT
Bhupinder Singh, PT, Ph.D.

Occupational Therapy Program

Gifty Abraham, O.T.D., OTR/L
Susan Charnley, DrOT, OTR/L, CHT
Glen S. Cotton, O.T.D., OTR/L, HPCS
Susanne A. Higgins, O.T.D., OTR/L, CHT
Andrea Karr, MOT, OTR/L, CAPS
Anne Kiraly-Alvarez, O.T.D., OTR/L, SCSS
Lisa J. Knecht-Sabres, D.H.S., OTR/L
Mark Kovic, O.T.D., OTR/L, FAOTA
Lisa Mahaffey, Ph.D., OTR/L
Monika I. Robinson, DrOT, OTR/L
Lydia Royeen, Ph.D., OTR/L
Emily K. Simpson, Ph.D., OTR/L
Divya Sood, O.T.D., OTR/L

Speech-Language Pathology Program

Judith F. Ball, M.S., CCC-SLP
Audrey Bowlds, M.S., CCC-SLP
Miriam Carroll-Alfano, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CBIS
Libby Dart, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Christina del Toro, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Meredith S. Fitzgibbons, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Nicole Gilbert, M.A., CCC-SLP
Kimberly S. Hoffer, M.A., CCC-SLP
Cindy Krizizke, M.S., CCC-SLP
Kathleen Post, M.S., CCC-SLP
Balaji Rangarathnam, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Jonathan P. Wilson, Ph.D., 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.

**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.

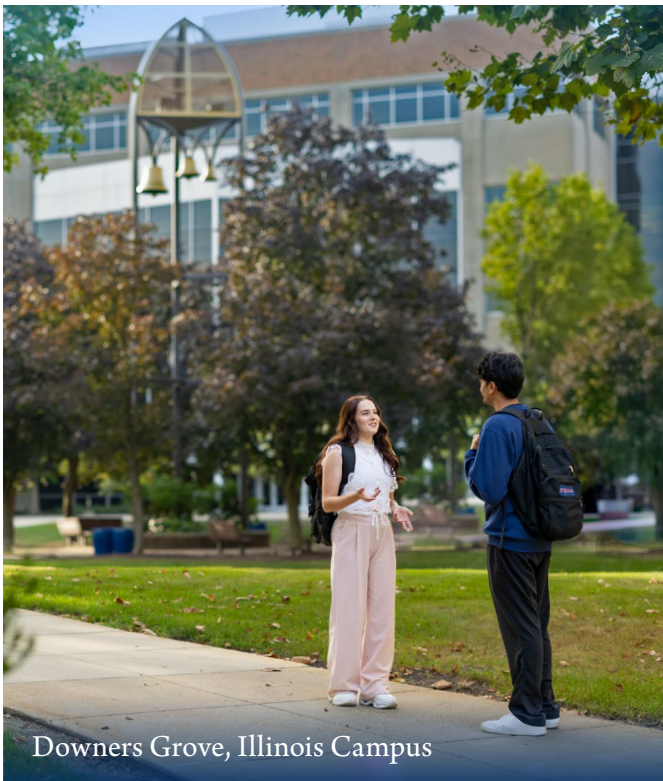
HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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 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

Downers Grove Campus
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Downers Grove, IL 60515
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