College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove

2026 COMMENCEMENT

College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove

2026 Commencement

Midwestern University • Downers Grove Campus

Friday, the Twenty-Ninth of May,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

Order of Ceremony

Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance*
The Audience Will Please Stand

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

National Anthem: *The Star-Spangled Banner* by F.S. Key
Kaley J. Borchardt, *College of Pharmacy, Class of 2026*

Opening Reflection: Shaifali Bhalla, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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

Dean's Welcome: Mitchell Emerson, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove Campus and Glendale Campus

Pharmacy Oath: Carrie A. Sincak, Pharm.D., BCPS, FASHP
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Emerson

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

Graduate Hooding of the Class of 2026

Presentation of Midwestern University Coin
Honoring our Military Graduate

Student Remarks: Natalie Nicole Ferrufino
Class of 2026 Representative

Closing Remarks: Dr. Emerson

Closing Reflection: Dr. Bhalla

Recessional

Announcer:
Shridhar Andurkar, Ph.D.

Student Marshals:
Brian Cryder, Pharm.D., BCACP
Linda Haase, B.Pharm., R.Ph.
Marc Scheetz, Pharm.D., M.Sc., FCCP, FCP, FIDSA
Robin Zavod, Ph.D., FAPhA

Faculty Marshals:
Denise Kolanczyk, Pharm.D., BCPS
Kathy Komperda, Pharm.D., BCPS

Hooders:
Jennfier D'Souza, Pharm.D., M.S.Ed., CDCES, BC-ADM, '03
Jennifer Mazan, Pharm.D.

Mace Bearers
Jill Borchert, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP, FCCP
Susan Winkler, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP

Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2026

Amjad Abdelrahman
Mokena, IL
Cum laude

Sharon Abraham
Miami, FL

Soujood Abuali
Oak Forest, IL

Jeanine Ahmad
Tinley Park, IL

Brianna Marie Alex
Elmhurst, IL

Haya M. Alramahi
Burbank, IL

Dina Altameemi
Westmont, IL

Ali Ziad Alwan
West Chicago, IL

Sara Marie Backus
Kenosha, WI

Abrar Mirza Baig
Aurora, IL

Jaime Eric Behar
Cooper City, FL

Akansha Bhatt
Bolingbrook, IL
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Kaley J. Borchardt
Hanover Park, IL

Ethan Calderon
Lincolnwood, IL
Cum laude

Frank Joseph Carnivele
Evergreen Park, IL
Summa cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Saul Casas
Montgomery, IL

Carlos-Julian Centeno
Naperville, IL

Elizabeth Davydoff
New Hyde Park, NY

Fredjah Desmezeaux
Cambridge, MA
Cum laude

Endy Didovic
Melrose Park, IL
Cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Chanele Ebeza
Fayetteville, NC
Cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Nora Elias
Morton Grove, IL

Zakarya Esmahi
Edmonton, Canada

Eleni Fegos
Patra, Greece
Phi Lambda Sigma

Natalie Nicole Ferrufino
Montgomery, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Alexis Maria Flamburis
Orland Park, IL
Cum laude

Dev Alpesh Gandhi
Palatine, IL

Douah S. Ghouleh
Orland Park, IL

Talynn Janelle Glenn
Los Angeles, CA
Phi Lambda Sigma

Ketsialys Gonzalez
San Sebastian, PR

Kimberly Anahi Gonzalez
Berwyn, IL
Magna cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Sophie Marie Gonzalez
Boynton Beach, FL
Cum laude

Erin Rachel Hamzaraj
Toronto, Canada

Emily Brooke Horsley
Valparaiso, IN
Cum laude

Kanon Huffman
Colorado Springs, CO

Gamilh Hussain Hujaji
Bridgeview, IL

Nicole Jacob
Downers Grove, IL

Colin Jeantet
Lawton, OK

Bethany Joy Tabernilla Jimenez
Salinas, CA
Phi Lambda Sigma

Mohammad Jumah
Burbank, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Dominic Kallabat
West Bloomfield, MI

Justine Kaminski
Palos Hills, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Kathryn Keller
Chicago, IL
Cum laude

Lauren Elizabeth Kempf
Waterford, MI
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Neama Keshta
Lyons, IL
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Rita Khoshaba
Commerce Township, MI
Phi Lambda Sigma

Georgina Kifarkis
Niles, IL

Lexus King
Oneida, WI

Hsiang-Lin Ku
Fullerton, CA
Cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Nikesh Ramesh Kumar
Lima, OH
Phi Lambda Sigma

Matthew Adam Laubscher
Cissna Park, IL
Cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Justin Chanhee Lee
Austin, TX

Fatima Mahmoud Mahafzah
Palos Park, IL

Rahee Rupesh Manek
Naperville, IL
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Danya Marou
Orland Park, IL
Cum laude

Yusuf Marou
Orland Park, IL

Smriti Marwaha*
Orland Park, IL

Walid Jamal Masoud
Chicago, IL

Michael Alexander McClure
Cherry Point, NC

Elahe Mehri
Park Ridge, IL

Kelly Rose Minuskin*
Palatine, IL
Summa cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Yousif Imad Naisan
Sterling Heights, MI

Jasmine Nava
Chicago, IL
Cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Timothy Munguti Ndunda
Nairobi, Kenya

Jennifer Huang Ni
Sycamore, IL
Cum laude

Charlotte Tsui Nielsen
Elgin, IL
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Kenji Uriel Okudaira
Okinawa, Japan

Mary Ondrejka
New Lenox, IL

Bayan Ahmad Othman
Worth, IL

Elizabeth Pae
Inverness, IL

Esha Amit Patel
DeKalb, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Hemali Patel
Forest Park, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Marissa P. Patel
Edison, NJ
Cum laude, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi Society

Megha Patel
Plainfield, IL
Cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Santina Sabah Pattah
Rochester Hills, MI
Cum laude

Eman H. Qasmieh
Orland Park, IL

Alina Rabi
Riverwoods, IL

Ahmad B. Rahman
Homer Glen, IL

Yasmin Ramirez
Phoenix, AZ

Mohammad Khalil Rayes
Dearborn, MI
Phi Lambda Sigma

Vanessa Rosaria
Lombard, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Diego Armando Rosso Gonzalez
Bayamon, PR

Logan Tyler Roth
Tinley Park, IL
Cum laude

Eman Rouhy Shalabi
Orland Park, IL

Maha Imran Sheikh
Toronto, Canada

Jessica Anita Skruch
Buffalo Grove, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Kristina Stupakova
Justice, IL
Phi Lambda Sigma

Kainat Pyarali Suszali
Wilmette, IL

Crystal Whitney Terry*
Durham, NC

Joud Toumah
Palos Hills, IL
Cum laude

Nour Toumah
Palos Hills, IL

Larissa Janelle Van Pelt
Scottsdale, AZ
Magna cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Justin Luke Velasco
Romeoville, IL

Justyn Wicks
Lockport, IL

Ryan Richard Williamson
Rochester, MN
Summa cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Paige Elizabeth Willman
Granville, IA
Summa cum laude, Rho Chi Society

Yasmin Yasser Zahra
Jacksonville, FL

**Also receiving the Post-Graduate Certificate in Precision Medicine*

Oath of a Pharmacist

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will promote inclusion and belonging, respect differences in all individuals, and address health disparities to advance health equity for all people.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

College of Pharmacy, Downers Grove Faculty

Shridhar V. Andurkar, Ph.D.
Regina C. Arellano, Pharm.D., BCPS
Sally A. Arif, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCP
Shaifali Bhalla, Ph.D.
Jill S. Borchert, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP, FCCP
Seema Briyal, Ph.D.
Robert L. Chapman, Ph.D.
Brian T. Cryder, Pharm.D., BCACP, CACP
Lea E. dela Peña, Pharm.D., BCPS
Jennifer J. D'Souza, Pharm.D., M.S.Ed., BC-ADM, CDCES
Mitchell R. Emerson, Ph.D.
Brooke L. Griffin, Pharm.D., BCACP
Linda Haase, R.Ph.
Spencer E. Harpe, Pharm.D., Ph.D., MPH, FAPhA
Anna Kabakov, Pharm.D., MBA, BCPS
Denise M. Kolanczyk, Pharm.D., BCPS
Kathy E. Komperda, Pharm.D., BCPS
Elizabeth M. Langan, M.D.
Kelly A. Lempicki, Pharm.D., BCPS
Jennifer L. Mazan, Pharm.D.
Karen M. Nagel-Edwards, Ph.D., FAPhA
Gwen Pais, Ph.D.
Lisa Palmisano, Pharm.D., BCACP
Radhika S. Polisetty, Pharm.D., BCIDP, BCPS AQ-ID, AAHIVP, FIDSA
Ana C. Quiñones-Boex, Ph.D., M.S., FAPhA
Nathaniel J. Rhodes, Pharm.D., M.Sc., BCPS, AQ-ID
Marc H. Scheetz, Pharm.D., M.Sc., BCPS, AQ-ID, FCCP, FCP
Christine Schumacher, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP, BCCP, BC-ADM, CDCES, FCCP
Carrie A. Sincak, Pharm.D., BCPS, FASHP
Timothy J. Todd, Pharm.D., FPPAG
Kathleen M. Vest, Pharm.D., BCACP, CDCES, FCCP
Sheila K. Wang, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCIDP
Jeffrey T. Wieczorkiewicz, Pharm.D., BCPS
Susan R. Winkler, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP
Robin M. Zavod, Ph.D., FAPhA

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 Pharmacy, Downers Grove
Discipline Color: Olive
Liner Color: Light Purple
Chevron Color: White

College of Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program
Discipline Color: Gold
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 Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Program
Discipline Color: Sage Green
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology 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 Dental Medicine–Illinois
Discipline Color: Lilac
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

Chicago College of Optometry
Discipline Color: Seafoam
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 Public Health Program
Discipline Color: Salmon
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.

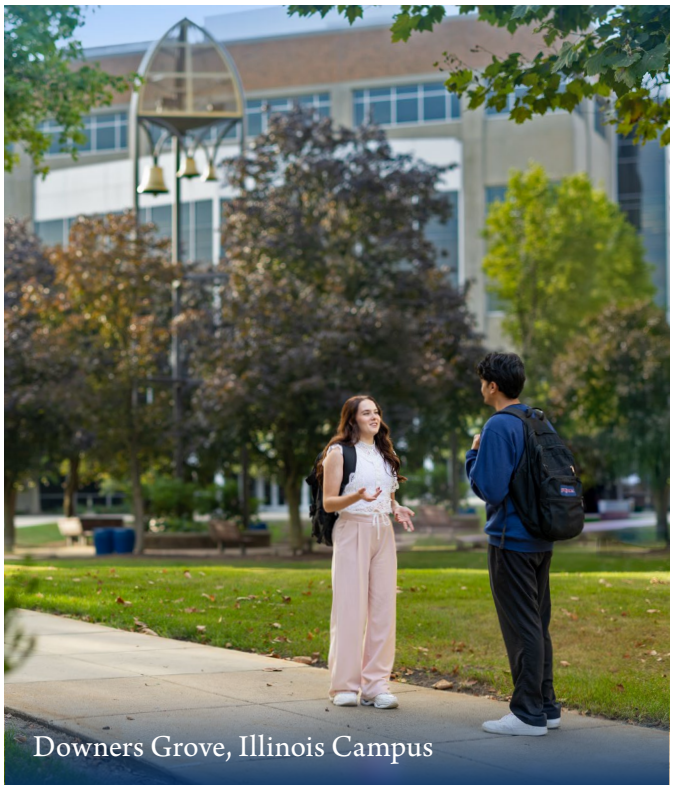
History of Midwestern University

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 Yueh, Ph.D.
Provost

Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

Downers Grove Campus
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Downers Grove, IL 60515
www.midwestern.edu