



Kansas City
University

COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Class of 2029

KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | JULY 21, 2025





OUR MISSION

Kansas City University is a community of professionals committed to excellence in education, research, patient care and community service while:

Improving the well-being of the communities we serve.

OUR VISION

Changing health care for good.

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE

Striving for quality, integrity and innovation

EQUITY

Supporting an inclusive and collaborative environment

EMPATHY

Caring for our students, our colleagues and our community

NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME

W. Joshua Cox, DO, FACOFP

*Executive Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine &
Vice Provost for Medical Affairs*

REMARKS

Member of Kansas City University Leadership

Sharon Gustowski, DO, MPH, FAAO

Kansas City Campus Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

STUDENT GREETINGS

Victor Villarreal, OMS II

*Kansas City Campus Executive President of the
KCU Student Government Association*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Kelstan Ellis, DO, MSCR, MA, FAAP

*Section Chief of Bioethics at Children's Mercy, Medical Director of Pediatric Palliative Care
at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Adjunct Professor of Bioethics at
Kansas City University & Alumnus of the Class of 2014*

WHITE COATING

Sharon Gustowski, DO, MPH, FAAO

Kansas City Campus Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Kenneth Heiles, DO, FACOFP dist.

Joplin Campus Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

George Chou, DO

Associate Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Gautam Desai, DO, FACOFP dist.

*Professor and Chair of Primary Care
& Director of the Global Health Program*

Kelstan Ellis, DO, MSCR, MA, FAAP

*Section Chief of Bioethics at Children's Mercy, Medical Director of Pediatric Palliative Care
at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Adjunct Professor of Bioethics at
Kansas City University & Alumnus of the Class of 2014*

Hana Hamdan, MD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

Philip Volpe, DO

Major General, United States Army (Ret.) & Assistant Professor of Primary Care

Bruce Williams, DO, FACOFP dist.

Associate Dean of Clinical Education

THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2029

THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

I do hereby affirm my loyalty
to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful always of my great responsibility
to preserve the health and the life of my patients,
to retain their confidence and respect
both as a physician and a friend
who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity,
to perform faithfully my professional duties,
to employ only those recognized methods of treatment
consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability,
keeping in mind always nature's laws
and the body's inherent capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding in the general welfare
of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions,
not engaging in those practices, which will in any way,
bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession.

I will give no drugs for deadly purposes to any person,
though it be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues
in a spirit of progressive cooperation,
and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them
or their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem
upon all those who have taught me my art.

To my college I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests
and for the interests of the students who will come after me.

I will be ever alert to further the application
of basic biologic truths to the healing arts
and to develop the principles of osteopathy,
which were first enunciated by Andrew Taylor Still.

KCU FACTS

KCU is the largest medical school in Missouri and the 4th largest private medical school in the nation.

KCU is the leading producer of physicians for Missouri and the second-leading producer for Kansas.

Nearly 12,000 physicians and scientists nationwide earned their degrees at KCU.

KCU is ranked the 9th most impactful medical school for primary care – as recognized by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

KCU is home to a College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Biosciences and College of Dental Medicine located on two Missouri campuses, Kansas City and Joplin, to serve the region and beyond.

