

Graduate Medical Education

POLICY ON DEGREE DESIGNATIONS FOR GME-ISSUED DOCUMENTS AND VERIFICATIONS

It is the policy of the UI Health Care GME Office to use only the true and accurate abbreviation for an individual's undergraduate medical education degree on any UI Health Care GME-issued document, including but not limited to contracts and residency and/or fellowship certificates.

When queried by another academic institution, potential employer, health care facility, licensing board or similar entity, the UI Health Care GME Office will only reference the abbreviation of an individual's degree which has been verified by the primary source undergraduate medical education entity.

For example, for the UI Health Care GME Office to denote "Medical Doctor" or "M.D." on a UI Health Care-issued certificate, verification or other document, official documentation must be provided directly to the UI Health Care GME Office from the source institution which shows in writing that "Medical Doctor" or "M.D." was the degree conferred upon the individual by that institution.

UI Health Care recognizes that:

- The Iowa Board of Medicine and other like entities may allow the use of "M.D." even when an M.D. was not the degree conferred by the individual's undergraduate medical institution;
- Other institutions or GME programs may be less rigorous in their adherence to the use of the actual abbreviation of the degree conferred upon the individual;
- This policy is reliant on what an individual's undergraduate medical institution, as the primary source of authentication, verifies as the abbreviation for the degree conferred upon the individual, and that this verification is reliant upon the English translation given by the source institution; and
- Apart from the abbreviation used on UI Health Care GME documents or verifications in compliance with this policy, an individual as guided by his/her professional ethical standards, may elect to use the "M.D." abbreviation in conjunction with his/her professional practice as a licensed physician, even when that was not the actual degree conferred upon the physician in question.

Questions concerning this policy should be brought to the UI Health Care GME Office.

Approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee	4/1/ 2024
Approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee	10/1/2024