



GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY™

3300 West Camelback Road, Phoenix Arizona 85017 602.639.7500 Toll Free
800.800.9776 www.gcu.edu

DATE: February 23, 2026

TO: Elizabeth Demartinis
FROM: Grand Canyon University Institutional Review Board

STUDY TITLE: Attitudes Toward Family Medicine Among United States Medical Students: A
Comparative Study
IRB REFERENCE #: IRB-2026-8402
SUBMISSION TYPE: Submission Response for Initial Review Submission Packet

ACTION: Determination of Exempt Status

REVIEW CATEGORY: Category 2

Thank you for your submission of study materials.

Grand Canyon University Institutional Review Board has determined this study to be
EXEMPT FROM IRB REVIEW according to federal regulations. You now have GCU IRB approval to
collect data.

**If you make any changes to your approved IRB application, you need to return to the IRB with a
modification for that change PRIOR to implementation. Making any changes without prior
approval from the IRB will lead to a Code of Conduct and may lead to all unauthorized data
being removed from your analysis.**

For exempt studies involving human participants, researchers must use the approved recruitment script
and IRB stamped informed consent that are located in the published IRB Study Documents. To access
IRB approved materials, log into iRIS > click on My Studies > click the pen/pad icon to open the
submission and access approved study documents.

Please note: All GCU doctoral learners must include a copy of this determination letter, any
modifications, the IRB stamped informed consent, and approved recruiting document(s) in the
appropriate dissertation appendices. For exempt studies designated as not human subjects research or
only using archival data where recruiting/informed consent materials are not required, include this
determination letter in the appropriate dissertation appendix.

We will put a copy of this correspondence on file in our office.

If you have any questions, please contact the IRB office at irb@gsu.edu or 602-639-7804.
Please include your study title and reference number in all correspondence with this office.

ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY

Congratulations!

On behalf of the College of Doctoral Studies, we are pleased to inform you that you have now advanced to the Candidacy stage of your Doctoral journey. This means you have completed all of the required proposal phases of the dissertation and you are now ready to move into the research portion of the dissertation work.

This is an important step in the doctoral process. Through advancing to candidacy, you are now among an elite group of learners who are doing academic research. This also means you are representing yourself and Grand Canyon University as an independent doctoral researcher and with that comes a great deal of responsibility. We wish you the best in your endeavors!
Congratulations on this important step in your doctoral journey and welcome to Candidacy!



Dr. Michael Berger
Dean
College of Doctoral Studies



Dr. Cynthia Bainbridge
Associate Dean, Research and Dissertations
Chair, Institutional Review Board
College of Doctoral Studies



Dr. Nicholas J. Markette
Assistant Dean
Ed.D. Program Chair
College of Doctoral Studies



Dr. Melissa A. Singer Pressman
Director, Institutional Review Board
College of Doctoral Studies