

# Simulated Patients in Nursing Education

Intertwining nursing students and village participants to improve educational experiences within our institution

## Authors

Alana, Apryll, Grace, Meghan, and Varinderpreet  
Contact us: 336292@canadorestudents.ca



## Introduction

For our capstone project we identified a learning gap within the education system/nursing program. By using prior knowledge and research we were able to propose a solution to minimize this learning gap. We proposed that simulated patients in lab practice and lab testing scenarios for the first year health assessment class would better support student learning. This could allow students to gain experience on real-life people, engage in community, and build an early confidence in establishing therapeutic communication and therapeutic relationships.

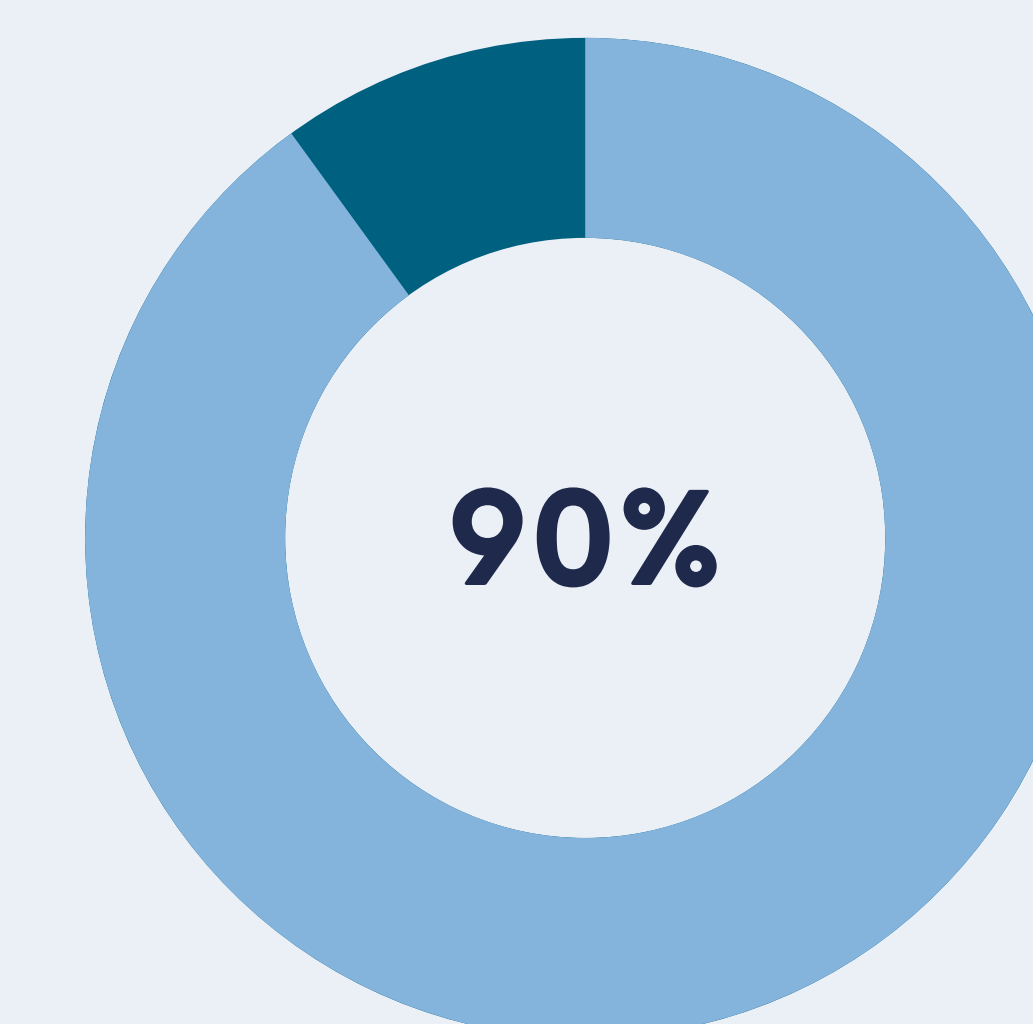
## Research Question

How can nursing education improve with the use of simulated patients?

## Findings

There is interest in members of the Learning to live fit program interested in becoming volunteers to assist the nursing students in the BScN program.

- Approximately 90% of members at our presentation agreed that they would volunteer
- Many members present had questions regarding:
  - When would this start?
  - How long would volunteer sessions be?
  - Where would they need to be on the campus?
  - What tasks they would need to do?
  - How can they be contacted?
- Members at the presentation felt this is a great idea as this will do the following:
  - Give them something to do
  - Feel a sense of community
  - Help the future nurses
  - Be apart of change
- Suggestions were also given on ways to promote this idea to professors, students and volunteers such as:
  - Emails
  - Flyers or Newsletters
  - Phone calls
  - Additional in person presentations
- Due to timing, scheduling and the busy time in the semester it became too late to try to implement our proposed idea in lab/testing classes at this time.



## Methodology

We first identified a learning experience that could be improved by the addition of simulated patients during lab and lab testing scenarios within the health assessment course taken in the first year of this BScN program. We also did the following:

- Research on this topic
- Contacted Professors expressing the idea
- Contacted Leaders of the Live Fit program
- Created a presentation for Live Fit Program
  - About us and the BScN program
  - Development of Competencies & Values
  - Capstone project & seeking volunteers
  - Tour of the high fidelity lab at Canadore
- Surveyed to see if there was an interest to volunteer
- Contacted Health Assessment professor to propose idea
- Planned to survey/interview students in 1st year
- Planned to fully complete research study ethically
- Planned to evaluate and analyze results
- Planned to present:
  - Capstone project findings to BScN203 class
- Hoping for in class implementation in the future



Presenting ourselves, information about the BScN program, our idea and the need for volunteers to the Live Fit Program at the Village Flexspace.

## Challenges

While working on the capstone project we were faced with some challenges. Some examples include:

- Finding appropriate times to meet with Live Fit Program Leaders
- Scheduling an appropriate amount of time to inform participants to attend the presentation
- Technical difficulties with the audio during our presentation
- Unable to establish a complete connection with 1st year professors to propose this idea in time
- Unable to establish the survey/interview to see the the spectrum of this learning gap from students in time
- Longer time wait when booking rooms for presentation and tours
- Inadequate time to complete this proposed research study as in depth as we wanted to

## Future Steps

Next steps for this proposal in the future would be to:

- Establish a connection with the health assessment professor
- Timeline adjustments
- Evaluate the cost
- Inform volunteers
- Access to volunteers at specific times
- Collaborate with Research Department at the Campus to conduct study
- Conclude findings
- Present evidence to program coordinator & dean of the college
- Implementation into course
- Evaluate effectiveness and student success

## References

- Chinn, P. L., Kramer, M. K., Sitzman, K. (2021). Knowledge development in nursing e-book: Knowledge development in nursing e-book. Elsevier Health Sciences.
- Gore, T. (2023, November 30). Healthcare simulation research update november 2023. HealthySimulation.Com. <https://www.healthysimulation.com/53566/healthcare-simulation-research-november-2023/>
- Healthy Simulation. (2019, October 19). ASPE – association of standardized patient educators. HealthySimulation.Com. <https://www.healthysimulation.com/medical-simulation/organizations/aspe-association-of-standardized-patient-educators/>
- Schroder, A. (2022, December 19). How to implement a volunteer standardized participant program. HealthySimulation.Com. <https://www.healthysimulation.com/47023/how-to-volunteer-standardized-participant-program/>
- Use of simulated patients to develop communication skills in nursing education: An integrative review. (n.d.). Nurse Education Today, 48, 90–98. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2016.09.018>