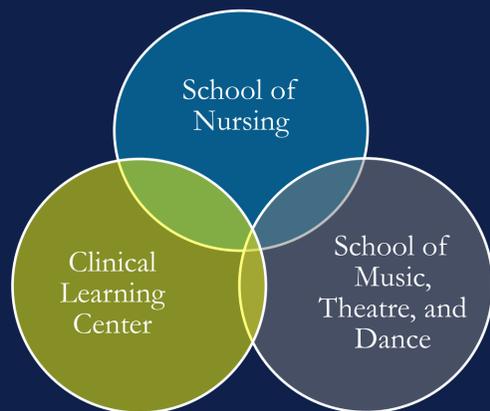


# Healthcare Theatre: Taking Human Simulation to the Next Level: Lessons Learned

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## BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

Authentic healthcare simulations are needed in both digital education and traditional programs to test and develop healthcare students' clinical competency. Creating a cadre of standardized patient actors, who can play realistic and complex characters is vital to our educational programs.



## INTERVENTION

School of Nursing (SON) Faculty and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (SMTD) Faculty developed a unique, innovative course to foster the development of standardized patients (SPs) and create an SP program.

The elective 3 credit course, titled "Healthcare Theatre: Taking Human Simulation to the Next Level," was piloted with students, alumni, and community members who were trained in simulation methodology, character development and providing constructive feedback to healthcare students.

SMTD Faculty provided training to incorporate improvisation, character development, and acting skills. SON Faculty incorporated physical symptoms, disease process, and interpersonal communication; Clinical Learning Center (CLC) staff provided space, props, and simulation rooms.

An expert in simulation and consultant provided recommendations to develop the curriculum and activities for the course. An experienced standardized patient educator coached and mentored the HT students.



## METHODS

Interviews and direct observations were obtained to determine authenticity and standardization of role portrayal while simulating physical and emotional complaints accurately. Students were evaluated on their ability to portray a character for the entire simulation and their ability to provide constructive feedback to nursing students to improve communication at the bedside.

## RESULTS

Goals for Healthcare Theatre Student	Accomplished
Authentic role portrayal of patient or family member	Yes
Realistic Character Development	Yes
Ability to provide constructive feedback	Yes

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The SMTD Faculty provided crucial training for improvisation techniques and character development. Students completed multiple transformational acting exercises to develop the physical skills and body language needed to portray characters.
2. While all of the students were able to portray their roles accurately after ten hours, additional time was needed to become competent in feedback techniques.
3. An experienced SP provided invaluable input to new SP students. The HT students benefitted from observing an experienced SP in simulations and then by being coached by an experienced SP.
4. The lessons learned will be instrumental in refining the course for future terms.
5. This course could be offered as a hybrid course to undergraduate students as an elective for a humanity course. The content covers a diverse range of cultural and social behavior.