

SCHOOL NAME: The University of Arizona College of Nursing

INSTRUCTORS: Yvette Matheson

SLS provides comprehensive simulation experience

Background: The University of Arizona College of Nursing offers a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, an accelerated second degree program for students who already have a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing, two graduate certificate nurse practitioner specialty programs, (family nurse practitioner and adult acute care nurse practitioner), and two online doctoral programs.

Issue: Faculty members at the University of Arizona College of Nursing were creating their own simulations. The process was time consuming, taking as long as 40 hours for one event. Faculty wanted a program that provided a high-quality simulation experience for students and would allow them to increase the number of experiences.

Approach: In 2009, the University of Arizona started using Elsevier's Simulation Learning System (SLS), including the pre-simulation learning resources, the simulation scenarios, the post-simulation learning resources, and the electronic medical record. Faculty completed training provided by Elsevier.

Students review the pre-simulation materials and exam the patient's medical record to familiarize themselves with the patient's history so they are prepared for the upcoming simulation. For example, if the "patient" with a history of cardiac disease develops crackles during a simulation, the student should know that they might be related to a cardiac problem.

After the scenario, students document in the SLS electronic medical record. They also attend a debriefing and may take a post-test.

Results: Feedback from students has been positive, and faculty have increased the number of simulation experiences they provide.

Benefits: SLS enables students to learn in a safe setting. Instructors can use the electronic medical record in teaching the students as a group, something that is difficult in the clinical setting.