



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORIES: SIMCHART

SCHOOL NAME: Washburn University

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SimChart prepares students for clinical environment

Background: Washburn University's School of Nursing in Topeka, Kansas offers Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree programs. The school admits 150 students each academic year with a current BSN enrollment slightly over 300 students.

Issue: Faculty at Washburn University's School of Nursing wanted to implement an electronic health record tool in their program.

Approach: Washburn University started using NurseSquared in 2011 and switched to SimChart, the upgraded version of NurseSquared, in 2012.

Faculty use support tools from Elsevier, including webinars, handouts, and training programs to learn how to use SimChart, with hands-on practice a key component. Students attend an orientation to the program. The School of Nursing is phasing in SimChart; eventually it will be introduced in each new incoming class.

There was a transition period before faculty and students could take full advantage of SimChart's capabilities, similar to the transition from paper to electronic that occurs in the hospital setting. Once the transition was made, both faculty and students could use the program more effectively.

Students use SimChart in the nursing school's health assessment and simulation lab. In the clinical setting, students often start documenting in SimChart, which can be accessed online, during their experience, mirroring how nurses use an electronic health record in the workplace.

Next, faculty plan to implement SimChart in the classroom. Students already work on case studies in class, so faculty will ask them critical thinking questions such as what to assess in a patient and how to manage the situation. Students will then document their results in SimChart.

Results: Students state that SimChart helps them improve their documentation skills. Research supports that simulation improves critical thinking, so one of the faculty members is currently researching how tools such as SimChart affect critical learning. Anecdotal reports find that SimChart improves critical thinking.

Benefits: SimChart helps prepare students to work in the clinical environment by giving them the opportunity to practice critical thinking skills and allowing them to work with an electronic health records system that simulates what they will use in the workplace.