




WCCN Simulation Lab Policy

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Author	Position	Signature	Date
Policy Task Team			

Approved by	Position	Signature	Date
College Senate	Head of Academia		2022/03/03

All Change requests should be submitted to WCCN

REVISION	TITLE OR BRIEF DESCRIPTION	ENTERED BY
2021/12/21	Rebranding	Dr T M Bock
2024/01/15	Re-branding	Dr T M Bock

SENATEPREAMBLE

This policy is to be applied from adoption hereof. This policy is by no means to be retrospectively applied and will only deal with the exam cycle, immediately prior to ratification of this policy.



1. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all programmes of the WCCN. The policy has been formulated to ensure that the simulation laboratory provides students the opportunity to learn and practice competencies in a simulated and controlled environment to explore elements of health care while learning to provide safe and comprehensive patient care.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- a) To provide to undergraduate and postgraduate students educational experience in a dynamic and diverse learning environment.
- b) To provide the opportunity for the students to learn in a risk-free environment and practice skills to reach competency.
- c) To promote patient safety and quality health care by improving the student's competency and confidence to improve clinical skills through realistic repetitive practices in the simulation laboratory.

3. LEGISLATION

- Relevant Professional Bodies and Councils – The South African Nursing Council
- CHE (HEQC) (2013) The higher education qualifications sub-framework
- CHE (HEQC) Criteria for programme accreditation 2004
- South African Qualifications Authority
- Nursing Act, no 33 of 2005 as amended
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, no 85 of 1993 as amended

4. RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES & GUIDELINES

- Vision & Mission
- Assessment Policy and Procedure and rules for assessment
- Qualification Review Mechanism
- Student Academic Support
- Department of Health Uniform & Identification device Policy
- Department of Health Placement Policy
- Department of Health Code of Conduct
- National Department of Health Patients Right Charter
- Western Cape Department of Health Mission, Vision & Values
- Student Identification Devices Policy
- Quality Management Policy
- WCCN Academic Rules and Regulation Policy
- WCCN Work Integrated Learning Policy

5. DEFINITIONS

Clinical facilitator

Means a registered nurse with a nursing education qualification who assists the student to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for practice within the clinical environment (SANC,2020).

Clinical education and training

Clinical education and training mean exposure of students to experiential learning in a range of settings within the speciality field in which the theoretical component is correlated with practice (SANC, 2020).

Lecturer

Means an academic expert in a higher education institution, responsible for education and training of students, including research, publication, and community engagement (SANC, 2020).

Mentor

Means a professional person who possesses relevant expertise, who will be able to share knowledge, skills, and values and model behaviour to an individual with less experience in a specific field (SANC, 2020).

Simulation learning

Simulation learning means the imitation of a real-world process conducted in the simulation laboratory under the direct supervision of a lecturer or clinical facilitator (SANC, 2020). Simulation may not exceed 20% of the total component for work integrated learning (SANC, 2020).

Work Integrated Learning

Means a characteristic of vocational and professionally oriented qualification that may be incorporated into programmes which takes various forms including simulated learning, work-directed theoretical learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and workplace-based learning (SANC,2020).

Simulation Laboratory Coordinator/Rural Campuses: Core subject lecturer

Registered professional nurse who will plan, operate, coordinate, and oversee the nursing simulation laboratory and simulation related to the nursing programmes at WCCN. Manages day to day operations including scheduling, staffing, and supply management. Attends accredited courses with regards to the "Simulation for Health Professionals "training to keep abreast and up to date with latest technology in the field. Provides training to lecturers and mentors on how to operate electronic manikins and devices this enhances and improve the understanding of certain practical procedures to students, that's eventually done in the clinical environment and in alignment with the training programmes as set out by SANC.

6. POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- a) The simulated learning should be appropriate regarding the programme level (certificate, diploma, or degree) and the relevant discipline or field.
- b) An efficient Management information system must be in place to record and disseminate information about the course, keep adequate records about work placement and review placements for improvement.
- c) The coordination of simulated learning should be done effectively and should include monitoring of infrastructure, communication, and progress by the simulation laboratory coordinator.

7. POLICY PROVISIONS

All simulated Learning across all qualifications and levels, should:

- a) Be at the appropriate NQF level with the required credit allocation
- b) Link work placements with learning outcomes of the program

8. MULTI CAMPUS SIMULATION LABORATORY HOURS

Metro West: 8h00-15h30

Southern Cape Karoo: 8h00-15h30

Boland Overberg: 8h00-15h30

Hours scheduled according to timetable.

9. SIMULATION LABORATORY RULES

- All students will be in uniform/clinical practicum attire, including nametag, while participating in simulation learning activities (See WCCN Work Integrated Learning Policy, WCCN/2018/13).
- All clinical facilitators and lecturers will be wearing a white coat or uniform.
- If a student is late/absent for a simulation laboratory session the student must make the necessary arrangements with the simulation laboratory coordinator to make up the time, to be up to date with the rest of his/her group and communicate with her class coordinator/lecturer.
- Students should bring standard equipment (stethoscope and assessment tools) required for clinical practicum during simulator experiences.
- Students will wash their hands to remove stains, ink, or oils prior to working with simulators/manikins.
- No food or beverages are allowed in the simulation or debriefing areas. Scheduled breaks are allowed throughout each simulation laboratory time.
- Standard precautions will be adhered to in the simulation area as it is in the clinical practicum area.
- All users of the simulation laboratory are required to ensure that at the end of their practice session, the laboratory is cleaned and ready for use by the next group. This entails needles in sharps container, empty syringes put in trash, nothing in patient bed, etc. Simulation laboratory should be left in the same condition it was found.
- Students will not be allowed in the simulation laboratory without supervision unless special arrangements were made with the simulation laboratory coordinator.
- Students need to make a booking if they want to practice in their own time during official office hours.
- Supplies and equipment used in simulation scenarios are to be left in the simulation laboratory.
- Cell phones interfere with electronic equipment therefore, no cell phone or other electronic devices are allowed in the simulation laboratory without facilitator's approval. Only in an emergency, if necessary, a student will be allowed to use cell phones.
- Students will not be allowed in the simulation laboratory without supervision. Anyone not following these rules will be asked to leave the simulation laboratory and will have to explain and be referred to the head of the respective department and disciplined accordingly.
- All users must act in a manner that does not disturb the academic activities occurring in the simulation laboratory.
- Students must sign the attendance register.
- Covid and all other relevant Occupational Health protocols will be strictly followed with regards to social distance, wearing of mask, sanitizing before entering and in between whilst being active in the simulation laboratory.

10. MONITORING AND MENTORING OF STUDENTS

- a) Lecturers and clinical facilitators will monitor the students in the simulation laboratory.
- b) Records of all contact sessions will be kept by the lecturer and the simulation laboratory coordinator.

11. REFLECTION ON WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING

Students must be given an opportunity to reflect on workplace learning.

12. STUDENTS

- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Attend orientation of simulation laboratory annually.
- Comply with health and safety regulations
- Abide by ethical considerations
- Engage in responsible behaviour whilst participating in simulated learning.

References

Illinois State University. Mennonite College of Nursing. 2016. Nursing simulation lab policy and procedures manual.

<https://nursing.illinoisstate.edu> [Accessed online 8 May 2022]

South African Nursing Council. 2020. Education and Training Guidelines for Postgraduate Diploma programmes. Pretoria: SANC.

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