

Center for Experiential & Applied Learning (CEAL)

Best Practices for Simulation

Standard	Statement	Criteria
Terminology	Consistent terminology allows for clear communication, shared perception, and coherent learning experiences.	Promote consistent understanding by explaining the terms used in simulation best practices. (Suggest <i>Healthcare Simulation Dictionary</i> .)
Professional Integrity	The simulation environment should be one of mutual respect, with clearly stated expectations for the attitudes and behaviors of all participants.	In order to promote a safe learning environment, participants agree to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the content of the simulation • Demonstrate professional and ethical behavior • Practice suspension of disbelief in a limited realism context • Respectfully receive and provide constructive feedback
Participant Learning Objectives	All simulation-based experiences should begin with clearly written, measurable learning objectives.	Learning objectives should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address domains of learning • Consider the knowledge and skills of the learner group • Be compatible with program objectives • Incorporate evidence-based practices • Be attainable within a given timeframe
Facilitation	The method of facilitation should meet the needs of the learner group and the stated outcomes.	Methods should be compatible with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning objectives • Expected outcomes
Facilitator	The facilitator should be proficient in all aspects of simulation. The facilitator should be provided with training and guidance to maintain proficiency.	The facilitator should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly communicate learning objectives and expected outcomes • Create a safe learning environment • Promote fidelity • Follow best practices for integrity, facilitation, assessment and evaluation • Foster learning through constructive feedback and debriefing
Prebriefing	Most, but not all, simulation experiences should include a prebriefing session aimed at preparing learners for the simulation environment.	An effective prebriefing process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the simulation environment • Clarifies learning objectives, expectations, and issues of confidentiality

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a “fiction contract” with participants by requesting they “suspend disbelief” • Attends to logistical details (restrooms, schedule, etc.) • Sets the expectation that there is a commitment to respecting learners and understanding their perspectives
Debriefing	All simulation experiences should include a debriefing session geared toward reflective thinking.	<p>An effective debriefing process includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competent debriefer who has observed the simulation (does not have to be the facilitator) • A safe environment conducive to learning and self-reflection • Based on a structured framework (Socratic questioning, Debriefing DIAMOND, PEARLS, SHARP) that supports the learning objectives and expected outcomes
Assessment/ Evaluation	Both formative and summative assessments may be used in simulation experiences.	<p>Assessments and/or evaluations of simulation experiences aim to promote valid and reliable results. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative assessment • Summative evaluation • High stakes assessment
Facilitator Assessment/ Evaluation	DASH-based facilitator evaluations will be used in simulation experiences.	<p>All CEAL simulation facilitators will be rated and will rate themselves using the Debriefing for Simulation in Healthcare (DASH) tool from the Center for Medical Simulation which tracks and rates six key elements of effective pre/debriefing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish an engaging learning environment (prebrief) 2. Maintain an engaging learning environment 3. Structure debriefing in an organized manner 4. Provoke engaging discussion 5. Identify and explore performance gaps 6. Help participants achieve or sustain good future performance