The Center for Clinical Simulation

An experiential learning environment for transformational nursing education
“The use of clinical simulation will allow us to transform nursing education at Marquette in many significant ways. Most importantly, we will be able to teach students in a realistic, yet simulated environment, all the while being able to assess their clinical reasoning skills and scientific knowledge in ways that cannot be done at the bedside. Patient safety and expert knowledge will be coupled in every simulation that our students participate in during their curriculum.”

Margaret Faut Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Marquette University
College of Nursing
Changing trends in health care and the expanding role of registered nurses demand improved clinical reasoning and the ability to care for increasingly complex patients. The Marquette University College of Nursing, through the redesign of its pre-licensure nursing curriculum, will continue to produce nurses who are well prepared to meet this demand.

A key element of this improved education and training will be the rigorous simulation curriculum needed to ensure that our students learn the appropriate interventions for complicated health situations. Accordingly, the Center for Clinical Simulation is being totally re-imagined to provide a realistic health care environment in which our students and extended health care community can practice. Benefits include:

- Enhanced learning through scenarios that cannot be replicated in a time-efficient manner in a real hospital or clinic setting.
- Consistent focus on improving response times to urgent critical care patient events.
- Ongoing educational opportunities for community nursing staff.
- Nurses and nursing students more highly prepared to provide care for our community.

The new Center for Clinical Simulation will significantly bolster the Marquette College of Nursing’s efforts to improve health care through excellence in nursing education.
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LOCATION: Lower level of Emory T. Clark Hall
SIZE: 9,500 sq. ft.
Reception Area
Designed to greet all students, faculty, and visitors with a warm and welcoming environment, the Reception Area is the first step of the students’ immersion in a realistic health care setting. Here, “patients” are greeted, registered and assigned to a clinician to await care.
Current and future health care trends indicate that more acute care is moving to the outpatient setting, and nurse practitioners will be providing the majority of this care. Two new exam rooms will offer a realistic environment for developing competency in outpatient care delivery and will be heavily utilized by our nurse practitioner students as well as our undergraduates.
Clinical Skills Laboratory
This laboratory will help both undergraduate BSN and Nurse Practitioner students acquire key technical skills essential for patient care. Utilizing a wide variety of electronic and static task trainers in a group instructional setting, nursing students at various levels will acquire and practice skills ranging from taking vital signs and patient histories to intubation and inserting central lines.
Medium Fidelity Skills Laboratory
This learning space will enable nursing students to apply their classroom knowledge and clinical skills in a more realistic patient care environment. Utilizing a group instructional process and working with medium-fidelity manikins, faculty will guide students in caring for “patients” who have programmable vital signs, heart and lung sounds, and who have names, charts, and social, cultural, and medical histories.
High Fidelity Simulation Suite
(one of six individual rooms)
Faculty from the College of Nursing toured the newest hospitals in the area to gain insight into the design of the High-Fidelity Simulation Suite.

This suite will include two medical surgical rooms, two intensive care rooms, a pediatric/NICU room, and a Labor and Delivery room. Populating each room is a computer-controlled, high-tech, Human-Patient Simulator. It is programmed to play out complex and realistic patient care situations in which the individual student must assess and critically analyze what is happening, make decisions, and carry out appropriate interventions. The simulations are conducted by faculty and technicians in adjacent control rooms who monitor their performance through one-way glass and on camera.
Home Health Apartment
In-home nursing is steadily increasing nationally and, in response, a Home Health Apartment was designed that looks and performs just like a real studio apartment. This space will allow students and community partners to practice health care delivery in an authentic home environment.
Debrief Room
The debriefing that occurs after a simulation is where the real learning takes place. Simulations can be observed by students via closed-circuit television. Afterwards, through faculty-guided discussion, students can reflect on all aspects of the simulation, including what did and did not go well and how decisions were made, and pose alternative approaches to the problem.
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Student Lounge
It is important for students to interact with other students and faculty. The Student Lounge will be a warm and welcoming area for this purpose, and will also serve to facilitate high-impact discussions and debriefings, including dialogue about human error, process improvement, and the spiritual side of health care — all of which are highly important in the learning process.
“Simulation has been integrated into all four years of the undergraduate curriculum. It is a teaching strategy which has facilitated our nursing students to increase their clinical reasoning (critical-thinking and decision-making) to deliver high quality, safe patient care to all age groups. It is an invaluable resource that helps students develop psychosocial, assessment, psychomotor, patient care decision-making and team-building skills in a safe environment.”

Kerry Kosmoski-Goepfert, PhD, RN
Associate Dean, Undergraduate
Marquette University
College of Nursing
For more information, please contact:

Margaret Faut Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Professor
Marquette University
College of Nursing
margaret.callahan@marquette.edu

Danielle Orchard
Director of Development — College of Nursing
Marquette University
phone 414.288.5436
danielle.orchard@marquette.edu