

The Clinical Simulation Learning Center

Preparing Nurses with Skill and Confidence

Today, more than ever, nurses need to be confident, caring, and efficient in their work. Within the UVA School of Nursing Clinical Simulation Learning Center (CSLC) students develop vital competencies in a realistic practice environment. Here, students can immediately apply skills and concepts that would otherwise become diluted between classroom time and clinical practice.

The CSLC provides a state-of-the-art learning, teaching, and research setting for students and faculty pursuing basic and advanced education. The Center offers a learning environment tailored for multi-level supervised and independent practice and a place where nursing students can work in partnership with other healthcare providers.

A History of Success

The CSLC was established to advance the teaching of clinical skills and to offer instruction for special accreditations, such as the acute care nurse practitioner program. Housed in McLeod Hall, the Center includes the Theresa A. Thomas Intensive Care Simulation Laboratory, the Charles L. Reed Physical Assessment Laboratory, and two procedural labs. The Reed and procedural labs include 20 beds where students learn and practice general clinical protocols. The Thomas Simulation Laboratory is a two-bed unit designed for teaching acute and critical care skills. This unit includes two simulation manikins, one adult and one infant, along with recently acquired cardiac and virtual reality simulators.

The CSLC is directed by Reba Moyer Childress, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP. Childress designed and developed the Thomas Simulation Lab, one of the first such facilities in the nation. She was also a project coordinator for the first National League for Nursing/Laerdal Medical Corporation Multi-site Simulation Study Team and spearheaded the development of the Virginia State Simulation Alliance. A founding member of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation, Childress has presented nationally and internationally to promote healthcare simulation.



Meeting a Growing Need

Plans are currently underway to expand the Clinical Simulation Learning Center to include the entire third floor of McLeod Hall. This expansion and renovation will upgrade the Center's current assessment laboratories and provide additional tools for learning and research, such as an operating room suite, additional ICU simulation and procedural laboratories, and virtual reality simulation equipment. Existing procedural labs will be upgraded to enhance learning, clinical practice, and research through the use of more sophisticated simulation resources and standardized patients.

The expansion reflects the proven effectiveness of active learning and teaching within the CSLC. When complete, it will offer much-needed resources to accommodate the growing enrollment sought to address national nursing and nursing faculty shortages. The expansion will also foster additional teaching and research partnerships within the UVA Health System and beyond. Ultimately, the Center could serve as a regional simulation teaching and research resource for the state and the nation.

For more information on the Clinical Simulation Learning Center or to make a gift, please contact the UVA School of Nursing Alumni and Development Office at (434) 924-0138.