



Exploring the effectiveness of high-fidelity clinical simulation for developing communication skills in Occupational Therapy students

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Why Communication Matters in OT



- ✓ **Therapeutic Excellence:** Communication skills are essential for establishing effective **therapeutic relationships** in Occupational Therapy.
- ✓ **Professional Standards:** The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) includes communication within its minimum standards, highlighting its critical importance in professional training

Why Clinical Simulation?

- ✓ **Evidence-Based Training:** Clinical simulation offers extensive evidence supporting its effectiveness in skill acquisition and retention, receiving positive reception from OT students.

Simulation-based medical education

Recognized as a viable and effective alternative for professional training

(Orjuela & Osses, 2021; Castillo et al 2022, Castillo et al 2023, Castillo et al 2024)

Communication skills in Health Sciences and OT

Emphasizing the critical role of interpersonal competencies within health curricula (McGaghie et al., 2016)

Student perceptions in Occupational Therapy

Documented positive feedback and reception from OT students regarding the implementation of simulation-based learning (Merchán-Baeza et al., 2021)

 OBJECTIVE

Research Focus

Primary Goal

To explore the effectiveness of high-fidelity clinical simulation with standardized patients for developing communication skills in OT students

Target Population

First-year OT students (2023 and 2024 academic years).

Academic Context:

Implemented within the "Integrated Practice I" course at the Universidad de Chile.



<https://chc.med.uchile.cl/>

Research Design

Study Type

Quantitative study with descriptive scope

Data Collection Tools

Student opinion surveys, teaching evaluations, and structured rubrics

Sample

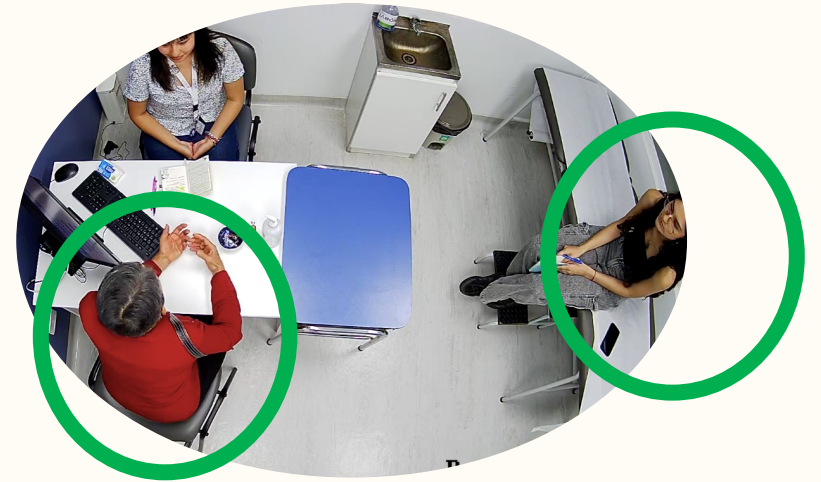
110 students with documented informed consent

Analysis

Descriptive statistics with over 90% response rate

What did we implement?

High-Fidelity Clinical Simulation with a standardized patient
First Clinical Interview Scenario



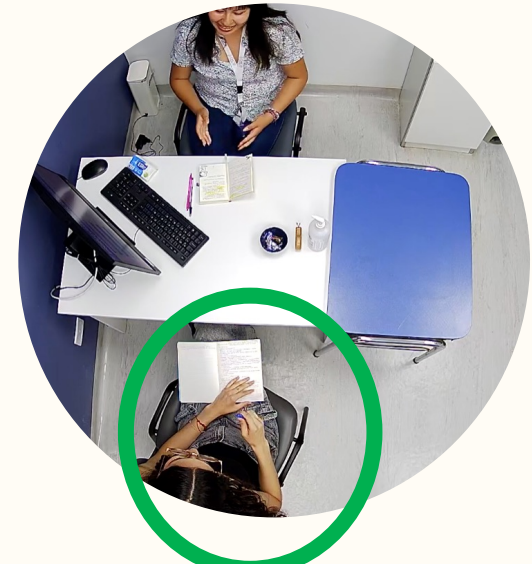
Brief

Establishing the clinical context and objectives.



Simulation

The active clinical encounter.



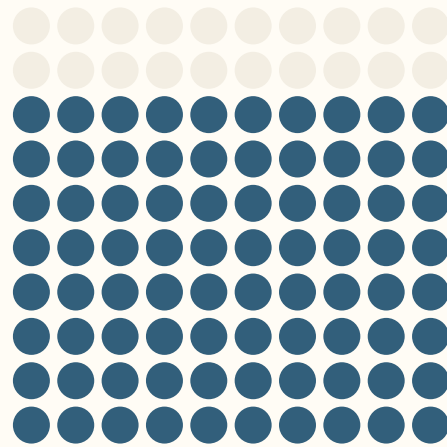
Debriefing

Reflective analysis to consolidate learning.



RESULTS

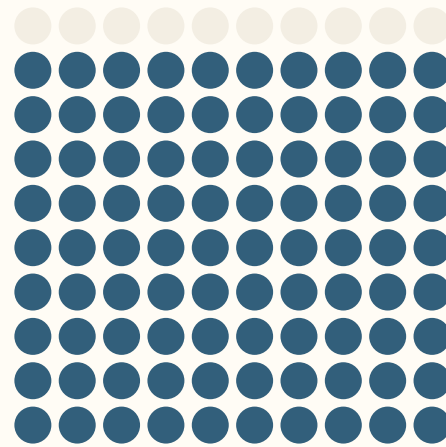
Results & Student Perception



80%

Minimum Satisfaction

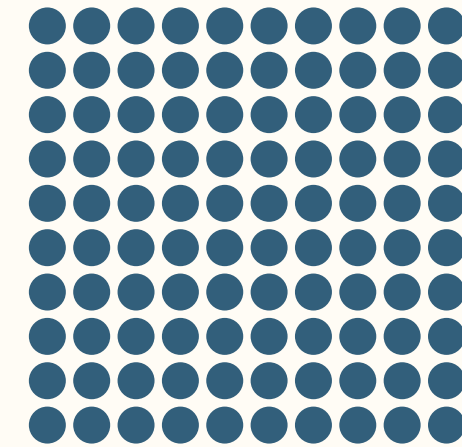
Lowest satisfaction level reported



90%

Maximum Satisfaction

Highest satisfaction level achieved

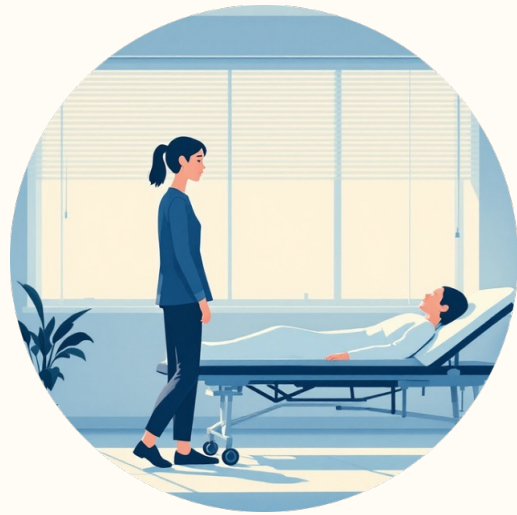


100%

Pass Rate

All students successfully passed evaluation and the course

What Students Valued Most



Therapeutic Skills Development

Students highlighted significant growth in their therapeutic communication abilities



Adequate Complexity

The scenario complexity was appropriately challenging and realistic



Learning Consolidation

Emphasized the importance of simulation in solidifying theoretical knowledge

Faculty Perspective & Pedagogical Benefits



With this experience the value of high-fidelity simulation with standardized patient in OT training within higher education settings is recognized, because it is an approach as an effective pedagogical tool that bridges theory and practice, preparing students for real-world clinical encounters.

Key Benefits of High-Fidelity Simulation in OT training



Safe Learning Environment

Students practice in a controlled setting without risk to real patients, building confidence gradually



Communication Mastery

Develops essential skills for strong therapeutic relationships through realistic practice scenarios



Gradual Immersion

Progressively introduces students to real-life clinical situations, easing the transition to practice

A Valid Approach for OT Education



High-fidelity simulation is a valid and practical approach for gradually immersing Occupational Therapy students in real-life scenarios. These exercises develop communication skills that promote strong therapeutic relationships while facilitating learning in a safe, controlled setting.



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Gracias :)



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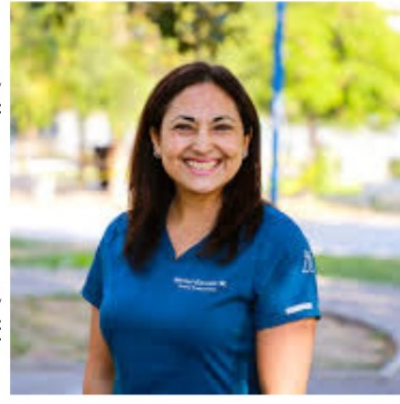
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