

## SIMmersion Student Information

### **What are SIMmersion simulations? Why are they being used?**

SIMmersion simulations allow students to interact with a 'client' that is responsive and unpredictable, much like an actual client. The 'client' responds differently to each topic/phrase you choose and their mood can change based on the words you choose to say.

The training developed by SIMmersion are simulations of potential patient situations. These simulations walk you through various intervention models through virtual engagement that incorporates the nuances of expression and reaction.

- **This is a chance to practice working with individual clients.**
- It isn't perfect, but is meant to simulate a real situation -- you can't "go back" or undo the session and their reactions are unexpected.
- **You'll make mistakes, and doing so is valuable.** You make mistakes here before you work with real people.

As a student, you will have access to the simulations for 2 years after you are given access.

### **What are "simulations?"**

The SIMmersion simulations are virtual practice sessions with a 'character' (portrayed by an actor) that you can engage with by asking them questions or making statements. You will attempt to utilize techniques of specific intervention models to engage with these virtual clients. Each simulation will contain a curriculum about the intervention models that you can learn about before you "launch" the simulation that will help you practice the skills.

### **Important Information:**

- One simulated conversation generally takes 15-20 minutes.
- Courses may have different expectations for how you complete the simulations, however they should all allow you to complete simulations at your ability and provide assistance.
- A certificate is available when students receive 90% competency at the advanced level at least 3 times for a given simulation.



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### How to make the most of using simulations in courses and field:

- Simulations may be completed as a part of field to practice competencies before working with real clients.
- Start the simulations early in courses and field to pace yourself as you try to reach a high score. Learning these interventions takes time and cannot be mastered after only a few tries unless you are already highly trained in the intervention technique.
- Utilize the “voice recognition” feature to get comfortable verbally engaging with your clients.
- Stay in communication with your instructors - if you are not receiving a high score, seek help from your instructors sooner rather than later so they can help you.
- Read through the theory-based curriculum available within the app before you enter the simulation; this content contains valuable resources and information on the intervention technique before you begin to practice it. Review the curriculum as often as necessary.
- Practice the simulations outside of homework assignments - once you receive a 90% score, you can show the certificate to your future instructors and they may find an alternate assignment or even may not require you to complete the simulations assigned for the course.
- Set good expectations for yourself:
  - On average, students need to complete 12 sessions to obtain a 90% score.
  - Take time to read all of the introductory material before beginning the simulation.
  - Download and review your transcripts to see where you can improve, and share this with your instructor or field supervisor to get some feedback.
  - **And remember**, the long-term objective is to reach a high score consistently over time -- even in life you'll have good sessions and you'll have bad sessions. Just keep trying.

Need technical help with SIMmersion? Please contact [simmersion@umich.edu](mailto:simmersion@umich.edu) with your inquiry.