

# Practice-Ready Educational Preparation through Innovative Simulation Pedagogy

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## Introduction

### Purpose:

To illustrate how integrating the SimZones framework with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials enables a longitudinal, adaptive, and competency-based approach to simulation pedagogy in undergraduate and graduate nursing education.

## Framework Integration: SimZones + AACN Essentials

### SimZones Overview

SimZone	Bloom's Level	Example Activities	Information Health Technology Sub-Competencies	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
0	Knowledge, Comprehension	Self-paced IHT (Lyceum) tutorials, virtual case walkthroughs, discussion boards, instructor-less	8.1a, 8.1b, 8.1d, 8.1f, 8.2a–e, 8.3e, 8.4a–b, 8.5a, c, d	Online quizzes, reflections	Exam
1	Application	Hands-on lab with EHR; medication scanning demo	8.1c, 8.1f, 8.2a	Skills checklists, faculty observation	Final skills check-off
2	Analysis, Application	Simulation with mock documentation and decision-making using EHR	8.1d, 8.2a, 8.2c, 8.3a, 8.3c, 8.4c, 8.5e, 8f	Faculty evaluation during sim; peer feedback	Simulation performance rubric
3	Synthesis, Evaluation	Team-based simulations with full informatics integration, safety events, system issues	8.1d–f, 8.2c–e, 8.3a–f, 8.4c, 8.5e	Structured debriefing (i.e., Debriefing with Meaningful Learning, peer and faculty feedback)	Simulation OSCE or pass/fail clinical
4	Evaluation	Clinical rotations using real EHR systems, patient care plans with decision support tools	Same as Zone 3, applied to clinical context	Preceptor formative comments; clinical journaling	End-of-clinical evaluation

Adapted from Roussin & Weinstock (2017)

## Practice-Ready Educational Preparation (PREP) for Success Interventions:

- Longitudinal competency tracking through Zones 0–4
- Adaptive learning paths with real-time formative feedback
- Simulation-enhanced interprofessional education (IPE)
- Progressive informatics integration (AACN Domain 8)

## Engagement & Implementation Strategies

- Survey the learners for the baseline knowledge
- Case vignette: Following a student across SimZones
- Reflective prompt: "How can you integrate one SimZone strategy into your curriculum?"
- Q&A with adaptive learning focus

How will we know our learners are ready to be in this learning zone?

- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023

## Outcomes

- Enhanced alignment with AACN Essentials
- Improved student readiness for clinical practice
- Scalable framework for faculty and program development
- Data-driven curriculum mapping and continuous improvement

SimZones answered questions I never knew I had.

- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023

## Conclusion

SimZones is more than an organizational tool—it's a transformative, learner-centered model that supports progressive, adaptive, and competency-based nursing education. By aligning it with the AACN Essentials, we pave the way for practice-ready graduates equipped for 21 st-century healthcare.

## References

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## Addressing Educational Gaps

### Traditional Simulation Challenges:

- Episodic, fragmented competency assessments
- Minimal real-time feedback
- Limited interprofessional integration
- Inconsistent exposure to informatics and tech

We hold people to high standards while holding them in high regard.

- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023

## Educational Objectives (Aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy)

- Remember/Understand:** Define and describe the SimZones framework and AACN Essentials
- Apply:** Demonstrate how SimZones can be integrated into your program to address the Essentials domains.
- Analyze:** Examine current curriculum gaps and align them with targeted SimZone strategies.
- Evaluate:** Critique current simulation pedagogy for its effectiveness in developing competencies.
- Create:** Design a curricular map using SimZones that supports AACN-Aligned longitudinal learning.

There is a teaching face, a coaching face, and a facilitator face or curious inquirer.

- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023