Practice-Ready Educational Preparation through Innovative Simulation Pedagogy Authors: Marianne Madariaga, MSN, RN, CNE, CHSE and Polly Anderson, MSN, RN

Introduction

Purpose:

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

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

- Longtitudinal 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)

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)

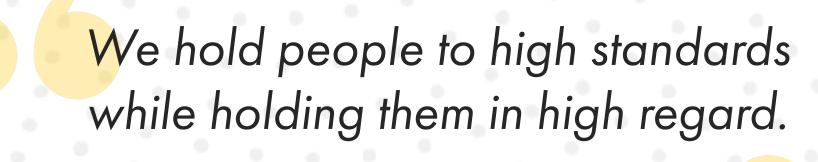
Addressing Educational Gaps

Traditional Simulation Challenges:

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

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

- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023



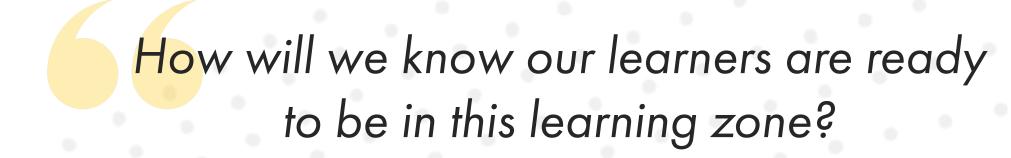
- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023

Educational Objectives (Aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy)

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

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



- Fey, Morris, & Rudolph, 2023



- 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.

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