

Dear Participant:

The healthcare field commonly utilizes simulation to enhance education. Simulation is a learning activity that replaces real patient encounters with guided experiences, which allows students to acquire knowledge and skills in a realistic setting without compromising patient safety.

As educators from all of the schools of the WVU Health Sciences Center and from WVU Medicine Hospitals utilize the West Virginia STEPS facilities, they will be investigating the extent to which simulation is an *efficient* and *effective* method to advance learners' ability to meet expected program and course competencies.

We are asking you to participate in this research study. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. The goal of this study is to answer important questions about simulation and its impact on learners' development.

Your participation is voluntary.

Your responses to evaluations will remain anonymous and confidential. Your performance in the simulation may be judged for ongoing feedback to help improve your skills and knowledge related to this simulation and/or to assign a grade. However, for the purposes of disseminating the results for this study, all data will be reported in aggregate and students will remain anonymous in both written and verbal reports. Your participation in this study will not impact your class standing or grades. You may choose to have your specific assessment data (which would be anonymously reported in aggregate) pulled from the study database and it will not be used for any analyses for this scholarly project.

West Virginia University's Institutional Review Board has acknowledged this study under the auspices of Protocol #1304035754, WV STEPS generalized protocol. Please feel free to contact Dr. Cynthia Graves, M.D., Chair of the WV STEPS research committee, or speak with your course director. If you would like more information regarding the Protocol, please contact Dr. Dorian Williams, principal investigator, by email (williamsdo@wvumedicine.org) or by phone (304-293-5234).