

# 2026 ASSESSMENT SHOWCASE

# SIM LAB STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

## Nursing Program at PCC Southwest · Summer 2025-Present

Project Leaders: Ally Marzulla and Leigh Sand

### PROBLEM

Student feedback over several semesters revealed dissatisfaction with the organization and educational value of simulation (SIM) and lab experiences. The sessions lacked structure, clear learning outcomes, and meaningful opportunities to apply both technical and interpersonal skills in a realistic clinical environment. Given that SIM days count as clinical hours, the program sought to elevate them into high-quality learning experiences that mirror real-world practice.

### PLAN

In Spring 2025, the Southwest Nursing faculty collaborated with newly appointed Lab/SIM Coordinator Ally Marzulla to identify gaps in preparation, execution, and evaluation. Ally partnered with Dr. Maryrose Channell and the Simulation Department at PCC Pueblo to align Southwest's SIM structure with established best practices. Key goals included improving simulation design and functionality, increasing faculty coordination, and enhancing student engagement through better communication and preparation.

### ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Beginning in Summer 2025, the Southwest SIM Lab adopted Pueblo's successful model.

- **Structure:** Two timed scenarios per day with a 10-student rotation.
- **Preparation:** Students receive simulation prep work one week in advance via D2L and must complete medication templates and pre-scenario assignments before arrival.
- **Execution:** Each session begins with a pre-conference, room walkthrough, and equipment orientation. The redesigned layout emphasizes hands-on learning—students now program IV pumps, titrate oxygen, use the Med Dispense system, and perform full head-to-toe assessments.
- **Documentation:** Using a shared Formstack template, students complete nursing notes, handoff reports (SBAR), and medication error forms.
- **Continuous Engagement:** Between scenarios, students review math modules, practice clinical skills, or prepare for upcoming cases.



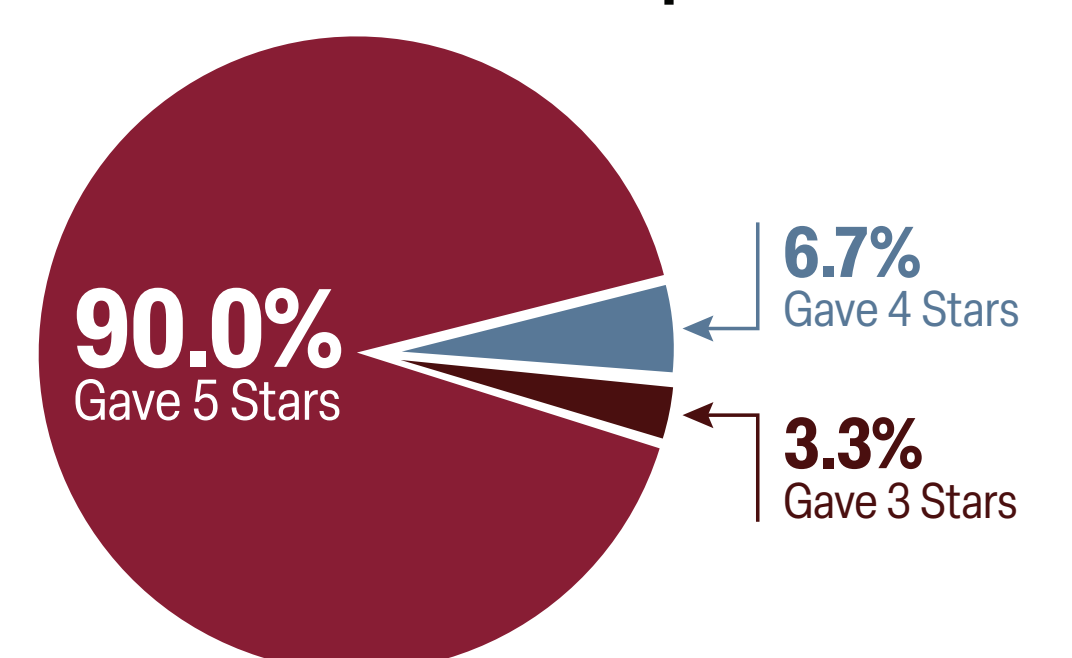
Lab/SIM Coordinator Ally Marzulla, BSN, RN (right) plays the role of the patient while watching students in an active scenario on the monitor. Meanwhile, Practical Nursing Coordinator/Faculty Christine Deem, MSN, RN (left) speaks with students in the role of the provider.

### RESULTS AND DATA

Survey data were collected after each SIM day to evaluate organization, realism, and perceived learning value. Out of 30 responses received, the initial reactions have been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting significant improvement in student satisfaction, perceived realism, and learning engagement. Students report feeling more confident in applying clinical skills, teamwork, and documentation practices. Faculty and instructor feedback highlight improved organization, preparation, and student accountability.

The instructor's questions helped me to think critically	100%	Completing the scenario helped me understand classroom information better	86.7%
I feel better prepared to care for real patients	90.0%	I was challenged in my thinking and decision-making skills	93.3%
I feel more confident in my decision-making skills	90.0%	Debriefing and group discussion were valuable	86.7%
I am more confident in determining what to tell the healthcare provider	90.0%	I better understand what to do if I make an error in my patient care	100%
My assessment skills improved	76.7%	I understood what was expected of me during the simulation	100%
I feel more confident that I'll be able to recognize changes in my real patient's condition	93.3%	I felt prepared for the scenario	76.7%

#### Student Ratings of Overall Simulation Lab Experience



Students valued practical applications, clear instruction, and ability to create items for personal use. The program improved skills, boosted confidence, and demonstrated waste reduction, confirming the effectiveness of this approach to training and assessment.

### CLOSING THE LOOP and NEXT STEPS



Nursing students Maeve Teirney (left) and Bobbi Spies participate in an active SIM scenario in NUR2006.

The program is pursuing further SIM Lab upgrades using approved Amendment 50 and Perkins grant funds. Regular surveys and faculty feedback will continue each semester to monitor progress and guide iterative improvements. The current structure will remain in place, with adjustments based on ongoing student data and evolving curriculum needs.