

Nursing School at Universidad de las Américas (UDLA)

Simulation integrated with the curriculum improves student assessments and provides better healthcare



Santiago, Chile

In 2008, The Universidad de las Américas (UDLA), Chile started developing its Nursing program under the guidance of María Antonia Klarian, a professional nurse with a track record of 38 years. Klarian, currently Director of the UDLA Nursing School, has now established six simulation training labs of high and medium complexity here.

At UDLA, nursing students use several patient simulators and a range of scenarios to gradually acquire the necessary skills to approach and treat patients. This innovative and highly sophisticated course of learning is a hands-on training program that fully engages students in a realistic and risk-free learning environment.



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Risk-free simulation sessions prepare nursing students to offer better patient care. To differentiate UDLA from other Chilean nursing schools, Klarian developed a unique learning experience for nursing students by integrating simulation practice into the Nursing School's existing curriculum.



This combination provides in-depth pedagogical support because it focuses teaching practices on individual learning and uses clinical scenarios to simulate real-life environments. These scenarios are designed to allow students to provide healthcare on increasing levels of complexity. Nursing instructors are then able to assess the performance and proficiency of each student objectively.

"Clinical simulation is very human. It allows a student to feel what he/she is contributing, and it enhances skills and helps to overcome difficulties in the area of soft skills: knowledge, know-how and discipline," said Klarian. "Students learn by doing and this impacts directly on the quality of healthcare, since learning in a risk-free environment contributes to and builds confidence to prepare students for their initial approach and contact with real patients."

The continual development in technology and equipment for simulation labs is another important consideration. The UDLA's Simulation Lab is completely modern, according

to international standards, and it relies upon several patient simulators, including SimMan®, SimNewB®, SimBaby™ and Nursing Anne, among others. Teachers and students use the simulators as "patients" in a variety of complex scenarios, which allows nursing students to apply their theoretical knowledge and to master their first practical steps.

Simulation has established UDLA as "school of choice" among students seeking healthcare careers

Today, simulation is spreading around the world, and many types of simulation training experiences are used throughout various medical disciplines and professions. "As far as clinical simulation is concerned, there's no doubt about its efficiency," Klarian added. "Simulation offers high potentials for learning and, in line with these trends, the Nursing School has already become the school of choice with one of the highest demand rates from students entering the UDLA." Moreover, UDLA surveys suggest there is a high level of student satisfaction in learning with simulation and that they enjoy using these tools.

The UDLA Nursing School is a clear example that using simulation, along with classroom training, prepares professionals to enter healthcare careers with knowledge, skills and values. When they graduate with a Nursing degree, they are ready to apply what they've learned in their work with real-life patients. This hands-on educational model results in a higher quality of life and better citizen health.

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- María Antonia Klarian
Director, UDLA Nursing School

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Universidad de las Américas (UDLA)

The Nursing School of La Universidad de Las Américas (UDLA) is a private institution of higher learning. Established in 1988, there are 2,400 students enrolled in its Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, with courses of studies offered at six locations: Maipú, La Florida, Santiago Centro, Providencia, Viña del Mar and Concepción. UDLA, the first Chilean institution to join the network of private Laureate International Universities (LIU), shares academic programs and services with students and teachers in several countries with the common goal of preparing professionals to work at international levels. For more information, visit www.uamericas.cl

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