RUTGERS HEALTH
School of Health Professions

SHP Student Interns for Research and Scholarly Activities Project Proposal Form

Instructions:

Please fill each box to the right of the required fields, obtain the required signature and return via email to Michele Sisco (mcoral@shp.rutgers.edu) **by March 24, 2025**.

If you are sending attachments, please ensure your contact information is added to all your forms.

Faculty Contact Information:

Date submitted: 02/10/25

Faculty Name: Jessica Gomes

Department/Program: Dept. of Physician Assistant Studies and Practice

Telephone number: 732-235-4445

E-mail: Jessica.Gomes@Rutgers.edu

Project Detail:

Project Title: (56 characters max)	Development of a Communication Curriculum on Delivery of Difficult News Using Simulation-Based Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Healthcare Students
Hypothesis:	Integrating AI-driven virtual standardized patients (VSPs) and simulation-based training with in-person standardized patients (SPs) into healthcare education will improve students' ability to deliver difficult news and conversations, leading to enhanced communication skills, increased patient and family satisfaction, and stronger interprofessional collaboration.
Description: (Include design, methodology, data collection, techniques, data analysis to be employed, evaluation and interpretation methodology for research component)	This project aims to develop and implement a curriculum that enhances healthcare students' communication skills, focusing on delivering difficult news and conversations to patients and their families. The methodology includes: 1. AI-Driven Support Tool Development: Utilizing large language models (LLMs) to create VSPs that assist students in practicing communication scenarios. 2. Simulation-Based Training: Designing high-fidelity scenarios with both in-person SPs and virtual SPs for realistic, hands-on learning. 3. Interprofessional Training Modules: Incorporating asynchronous and in-person training sessions to foster collaboration among healthcare disciplines including psychosocial rehab and nutrition.

	4. Data Collection & Analysis: Pre- and post-training evaluations using qualitative and quantitative measures, student reflections, and surveys from SPs and faculty to assess program effectiveness.
	5. Evaluation & Interpretation: Continuous feedback cycles and iterative improvements based on student performance metrics and participant feedback.
Specific Student Responsibilities:	1. Assist in developing AI-driven VSPs by inputting case scenarios and training models.
	2. Support data entry and organization of communication training resources.
	3. Participate in simulation training sessions and facilitate feedback collection from students and SPs.
	4. Conduct qualitative and quantitative data analysis, including coding and summarizing feedback.
	5. Assist in manuscript preparation and presentations for research dissemination.
Start / end date of project:	June 1, 2025 – August 15, 2025

WHAT OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS? (e.g., journal club, seminars, clinic, rounds)	• Participation in research meetings and journal clubs. • Opportunities to observe simulation-based medical education in practice. • Training in qualitative data analysis techniques.
WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO PRESENT OR PUBLISH THE FINDINGS WITH THE STUDENT? (e.g., national or state meetings, newsletter or journal, SHP poster day)	• SHP Research and Scholarship Symposium • National and state-level medical education conferences • Peer-reviewed academic journals • Rutgers SHP Newsletter

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CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE BOXES BELOW AND PROVIDE REQUESTED INFORMATION.

This project is: ☐ clinical ☐ laboratory ☐ behavioral ☐ survey ☒ educational

☐ Other: please specify_____

☒ This project involves the use of human subjects (including chart review, retrospective studies and questionnaires).

Pending ☒ Approved ☐ IRB Protocol Number _____

DocuSigned by:

Matthew McQuillan

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2/21/2025 | 15:11:27 EST

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Signature of Department Chair

Date