



**COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

What is a Simulated Patient?

A simulated patient is an individual who portrays various medical conditions and exhibits specific symptoms, behaviors, and emotions. By doing so, they help students learn how to respond in different situations and understand the patient perspective. Simulated patients:

- Provide a controlled environment for students to practice and demonstrate their clinical skills, including patient education and counseling, history taking, clinical reasoning, decision making, device skills, and motivational interviewing.
- Offer feedback to students, thoughtfully highlighting their strengths and identifying opportunities for growth. They play a crucial role in nurturing vital communication skills, fostering empathy, and building confidence within a supportive and encouraging learning environment.

What qualities do you look for in a simulated patient?

The College of Pharmacy seeks individuals who want to be a part of shaping the next generation of pharmacists. As a simulated patient, you will need strong listening and communication skills and the ability to memorize, concentrate, and recall information.

Top Qualities of a Good Simulated Patient include:

- **Strong Communication Skills:** clear speech and articulation, active listening, and the ability to hold a realistic conversation and respond appropriately to questions.
- **Consistency:** the ability to deliver the same story, symptoms, and emotional tone across different students and patient experiences.
- **Good Memory and Focus:** the ability to learn and remember case details and stay focused during repetitive sessions.
- **Feedback Skills:** the ability to provide constructive feedback to learners tactfully and honestly while maintaining a learner-friendly attitude.

Do simulated patients need to be actors?

No! Acting experience helps, but it's not required. What matters more is memorizing case details, portraying emotions authentically, and giving consistent responses. We recruit simulated patients from all different backgrounds.

Is there a regular schedule?

Your schedule as a simulated patient will likely vary. This position is temporary and is considered occasional work. The simulated patient program operates during the academic year, from September to April. Simulated patient experiences are scheduled Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

How often will I work?

This position is temporary and occasional work. The needs for the simulated patient program vary and are seasonal. There are busy seasons and slower seasons. You may go a few weeks without working as a simulated patient, while other weeks you may be scheduled multiple times.

Are simulated patient experiences in person or remote?

Our simulated patient program is an entirely remote position. Simulated patients must have reliable high-speed internet, access to a computer that can handle video conferencing, and a quiet place to conduct the sessions uninterrupted.

Is the simulated patient position compensated?

Yes, simulated patients are compensated for their time. Simulated patients are compensated on a tiered pay rate from \$15 to \$26 an hour. It depends on what type of activity you are scheduled for.

Do simulated patients undergo physical exams?

Since our simulated patient program is remote, students will not conduct physical exams.

What kind of training do simulated patients get?

Simulated patients receive case-specific training to learn the patient's story, symptoms, emotional tone, and other case details. Simulated patients are also trained to **provide feedback** and accurately evaluate student performance.