What is a Standardized Patient?

Standardized Patients (SPs) at Upstate Medical University include individuals with a wide range of life and professional experiences, who are paid to train future doctors and other health care providers. No medical expertise or health care background is necessary.

Using cases with specific patient symptoms, SPs are interviewed and examined by our current third-year medical students who are completing their third, clinical, year of Medical School within the Binghamton, NY area healthcare systems. Our SPs represent the vast array of identities, backgrounds, and experiences that our students will be caring for in their real-world practice as future doctors.

SPs work part-time, as needed, between two (2) to six (6) hours per shift. The 2022 hourly wage is $16.50.

Requirements

- At least 16 years old
- Read and speak English
- Proficient with computer and e-mail
- Standardized Patients need to be:
  - Comfortable interacting with people in a simulated healthcare setting
  - Comfortable having a physical exam while wearing undergarments and a hospital gown
  - Comfortable being videotaped (for educational purposes only, on a pass-word protected internal network)
  - Comfortable giving spoken and written feedback to students
  - Able to memorize spoken lines and case details
  - Able to realistically portray a patient case and accept coaching from SP Coordinators
  - Able to portray someone different from themselves and improvise parts of a scenario

Standardized Patients MUST

- Keep all case information confidential
- Remain in character at all times during the case simulation
- Complete a computerized checklist regarding the student’s communication skills and clinical behaviors

What is a typical session like?

- Typical simulations include a physical examination in a simulated health care setting, where we train third-year medical students on clinical skill sets and communication strategies to inform their professional and academic development. No invasive procedures (blood draws, pelvic exams, etc.) are performed.
- For these scenarios, SPs will wear their own undergarments and will be provided with a hospital gown to wear for the duration of the session. Simulations are videotaped strictly for educational purposes. Great care is taken to protect the privacy of our SPs, students, and faculty involved in these recorded sessions. All videos are stored on Upstate’s private server, not on the Internet.

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