

SURGICAL SIMULATION AND SURGICAL NURSING

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Tzu Chi University is the only institution in the world that provides a simulated surgery curriculum designed to provide nursing care in the surgery room. Traditional simulated nursing care education does not provide students a life learning setting in the operating room; only after graduation and working inside the operating room will they begin their actual learning.

In September of 2004, “Surgical Nursing” was established for fourth-year nursing students. The curriculum “Nursing in the Operating Room” was revamped with comprehensive teaching resources, combining University classroom teaching, the Simulation Medical Center facility, and the Tzu Chi Hospital surgical operating rooms and its resources. It is centered on “Students”, a revolutionary teaching concept designed to promote learning, discovery, and team cooperation and communication.





After studying surgical nursing in the classrooms, students visit the Surgical Simulation Center which is identical to the hospital surgery rooms to experience the surroundings and atmosphere. For example, students lay down on the surgery table to simulate patients lying on the operating table, under cold air-conditioned environment; their shock is not difficult to understand. Fourth year student nurse Luó zhāng hóng said, “The operating room is a sacred place to me even after two surgical practices without real patients. This is my first time experience in a real surgical center. The cold air makes me shiver and reminds me the feeling of patients when I put myself in their shoes.”

Under the guidance of the instructor, students became familiar with many instruments and equipment and its operation. They prepared themselves near the operating table to practice the critical tasks to assist surgeons during operations.

Public Health and Nursing majors Lin Zhong-Yi shared:

“Our first stop was the pre-surgery room where we prepared patient by confirming the identity and respective surgical programs. We took time to observe patient’ physical and mental state, and provided assistance as necessary. We then accompanied the patient into the operating room where other students were concentrating their attention on anesthesiologists, surgeons, assistant nurses including scrubbing and circulating nurses to coordinate surgery in a concerted effort. The next time I went in the operating



Surgical nursing is in progress inside the Simulation Medical Center. Teacher Lee Li-Hua (Second Right) is examining the learning result.



room, my fellow students already mastered the art of timing, scrubbing, and the donning of gloves and robes. They looked confident, standing around the operating table and assisting the operation. After completion of surgery, we accompanied the patient to the recovery room and practiced necessary post-surgery care, including vital signs monitoring, administration of pain medicine and anti-vomit procedures.”

Student nurse Li Jia-En shared her unforgettable experience in the operating room:

“After a fascia incision and multiple rinsing of the opening, I can clearly see the different subcutaneous layers of tissue. The doctor called me to his side and asked me to feel the muscle tissues. The 10 cm wound almost swallowed half of my hand. This feeling is really a very special learning experience. Even in the future working in the operating room, I may not necessarily have such an opportunity. It is a lifelong memorable experience.”

This combined curriculum strongly elevates effective learning and future career opportunity. It is like a magic laboratory drawing the attention and curiosity of interest. Our meticulous design of the program is being felt by the students.