Preparing Students for Clinical Practice: The students' perspective

by Nancy McNamara



Research Context

 Within the Bachelor of Nursing Programme at Wintec in New Zealand







Where in the World?





Introduction

• The Perfect Storm (Hinshaw, 2008)





Simulated Practice Programme

Simulation	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four
	Patient admission The unconscious / bedridden patient	A day in the ward Patient Manual Handling/ Personal Hygiene	A day in the ward Multi-Disciplinary Meeting discharge planning	Patient Discharge and Referrals
Simulation Plus	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four
	Admission Process	Elimination	Collaborative Care Referral Process	Discharge Process
	Documentation	Fluid Balance	Simulated Patient	Case Study
	Time Management	Medication Management cont'd	Experience	Audits
	Introduction to Medication Management:			



Study Aim

 To evaluate the quality of the simulation programme from the students' perspective in terms of their learning and overall experience.



Method/Methodology

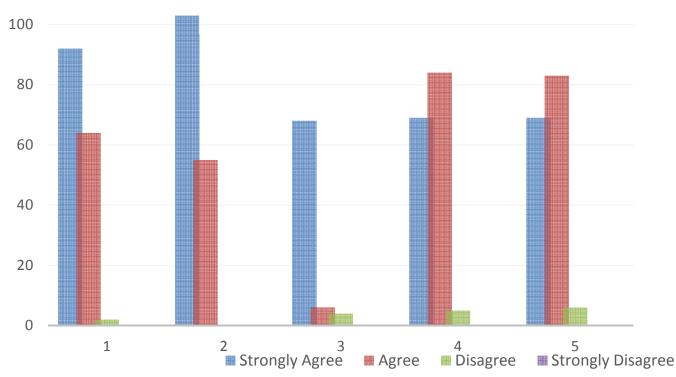
- Descriptive study design.
- Kolb's experiential learning theory provided a theoretical framework.

- 158 Self selecting participants
- Questionnaire, two parts:



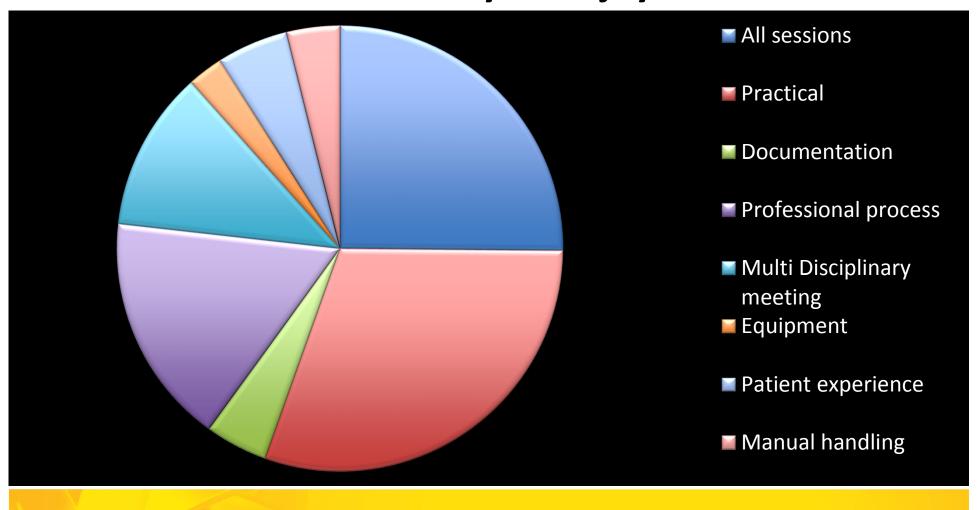
Part 1 Results





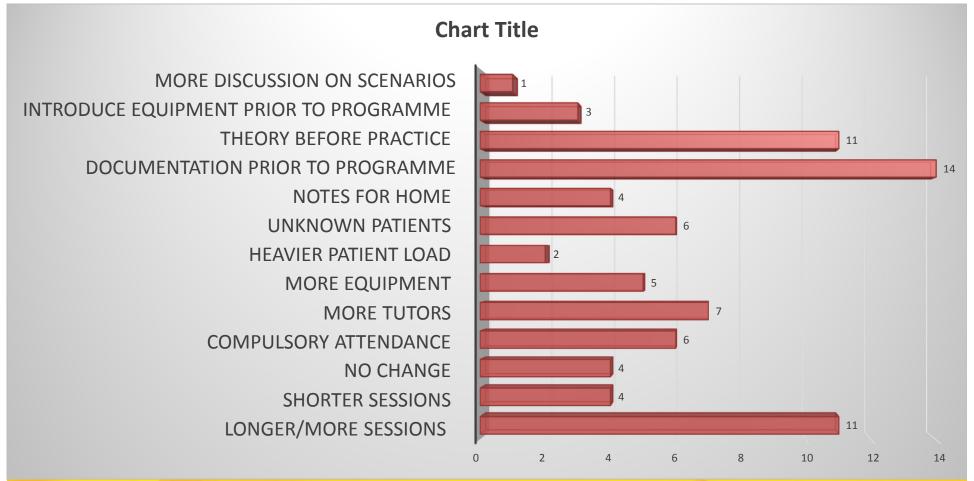


Part 2: Which sessions did you enjoy the most?



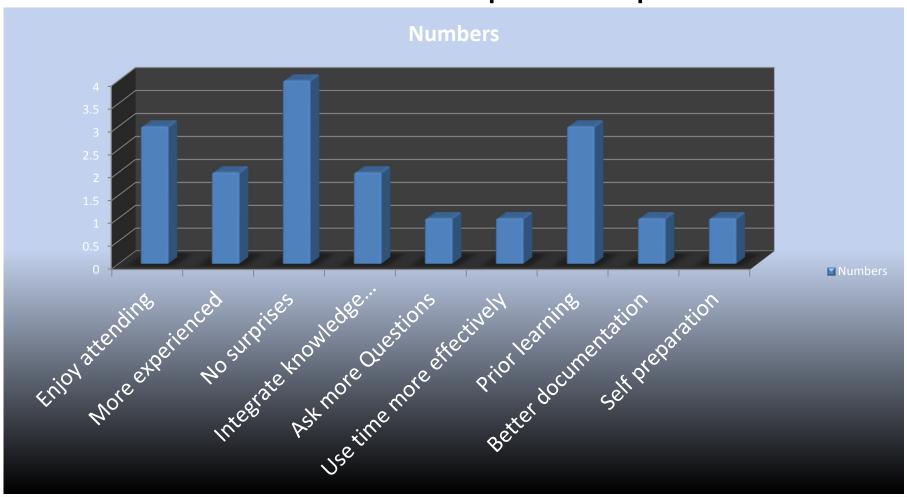


For future simulated practice in this module I would......



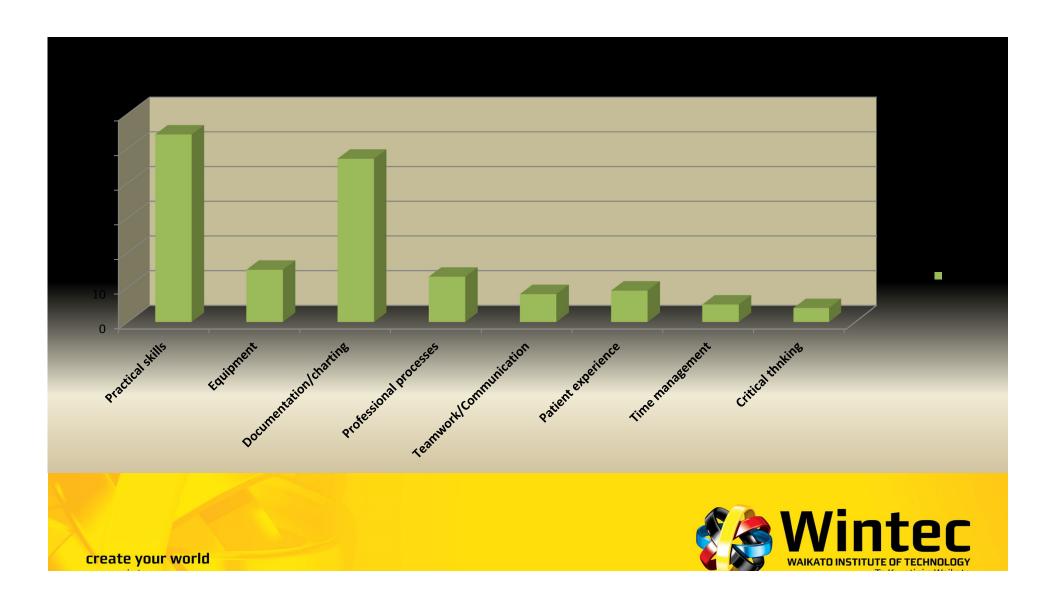


For Future Simulated Practice in this Module I Would.....the personal response

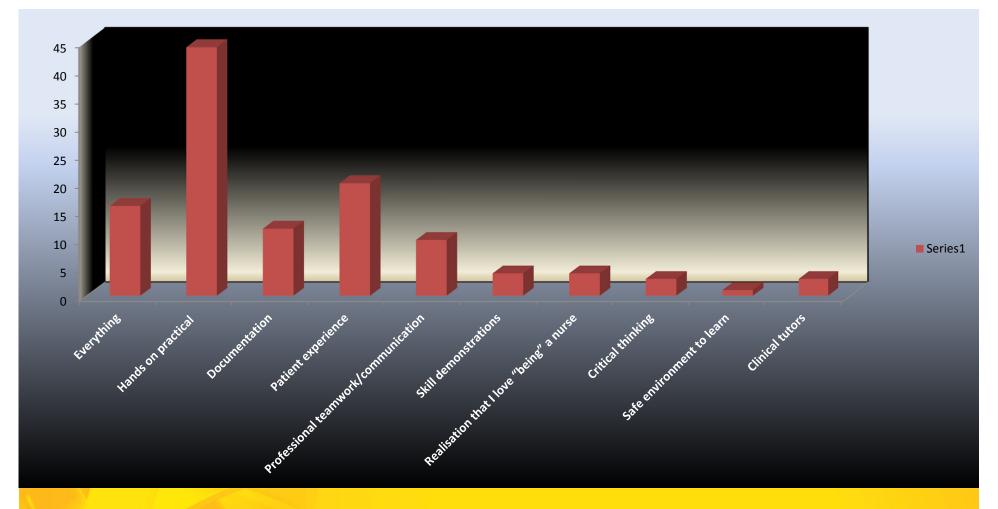




During the Weekly Sessions I learnt most about...



Favourite Part of Simulation





Overall Themes

- Hands on skill acquisition
- Student as patient
- Documentation/charting
- Professional teamwork/communication
- Realism
- Critical thinking/clinical decision making.



Hands on Skill Acquisition

- Safe supportive environment
- Peer learning
- "...I did really well looking after.....and everyone ese thought so too, they were asking me questions"
- "...feeling like a real nurse"



Student as Patient

Insight into the patient experience

• "...I've never been a patient before and I just didn't think that the bed pan would be so hard and horrible to sit on"

• "...I had to act confused and the others laughed at me, that's so rude, I'd hate to be laughed at".



Documentation/Charting

 45% of students said they learned most about documentation/charting

 "...I would like to have seen the observation and medication charts and assessment documents prior to starting"



Teamwork/Communication

Students

• "I hated it to start with and I thought it sucked that we couldn't work with our friends, we didn't even know each other and I didn't know what to do.....but they ended up being really cool and we worked together really well, I feel a bit better about working with people I don't know now".



Critical Thinking/Clinical Decision Making

- Debriefing DML tool
- No mention
- "...just part of practice?of course".





 Overall the simulated practice programme was well supported by students with 100% agreeing that the programme should continue.



Recommendations

- Age, gender and ethnicity of participants be noted.
- Students with previous practice be identified.
- A validated tool be used
- Al students attend the workshop prior to practice
- Learning be quantified.







