

**HIGH FIDELITY SIMULATION: EXPERIENTIAL VERSUS OBSERVATIONAL  
LEARNING**

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**ABSTRACT**

Simulation is an ideal method for engaging kinesthetic learners because of its ability to increase nursing knowledge, provide opportunity to practice nursing skills and develop critical thinking. Simulation is thought to provide a smooth transition to “real-life” nursing. The use of simulation allows a safe and virtually risk free atmosphere for students to learn, practice, and perform competencies. This quantitative study differentiates types of high-fidelity simulation through use of a Likert-style survey. The High Fidelity Simulation Comparison tool, an instrument to measure differences in observational and experiential high-fidelity simulation experiences was developed, validated, and found to be reliable. The review of literature and results of the survey support the use of simulation in Millennial generation learners with kinesthetic learning preferences. This sample is representative of current and upcoming traditional undergraduate students. Findings from this study show that experiential high fidelity simulation is ranked higher by students when compared to observational in helping them to grasp skills, increase critical thinking, learn from their mistakes and increase clinical performance. This paper provides support for the use of moderate and high fidelity simulation as an effective best practice method for the kinesthetic learner. Findings from the study could impact future educational learning activities and budgetary requests for additional equipment and space.

**Keywords:** Simulation, kinesthetic learner, research, experiential, observational.