Frequently Asked Questions about Standardized Patients

**What do standardized patients do?** Standardized Patients are trained to accurately and consistently portray specific types of patients. The simulation includes a specific history, physical findings, body language, and emotional and personality characteristics.

**Do I get paid?**
Yes. You are not an employee of the Health Science Center; you are an independent contractor called a “vendor”. You do not get benefits, and no taxes are withheld from your paycheck. Compensation varies depending on the campus at which you are performing. We have students in Bryan/College Station, Dallas, Round Rock, and Temple, TX.

**Who can be a standardized patient?** Men, women, and children of all ages and ethnic groups are needed to represent the various cases and patient problems used for simulations. Acting experience is not necessary, but a good short-term memory is required because it is important to remember the specifics of your role. Necessary training is provided by staff of the Clinical Learning Resource Center. Standardized patients are paid for time spent in training.

**To be a standardized patient it is important that you:**
- Are proficient with the English language both oral and written
- Have at least one full morning (8am-12pm) OR one full afternoon (12pm-5pm) available during the week on a regular basis
- Have reliable transportation
- Have Email that you can access daily
- Have a telephone number where we can reach you
- Attend a four hour orientation session at the Health Science Center

**What are the advantages for students?** Standardized patient encounters provide simulations that give students the opportunity to work with a variety of routine, difficult, and sensitive clinical situations in a safe environment where mistakes cannot harm a real patient. Faculty, peers, and the standardized patient can offer immediate feedback about student performance. Periodic evaluations of interactions with Standardized Patients also allow students and faculty to develop individualized learning plans based on student performance.

**What is the time commitment?** Standardized Patients can work occasionally or as much as they wish, depending on their availability and curriculum needs. Opportunities are announced via email, and participation is optional. Case portrayals typically vary in length from two hours to half a day and are also typically between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Why should I become a standardized patient?** Being a Standardized Patient provides a unique opportunity to be involved in the medical education of tomorrow's health care
providers. Theoretically, students who participate in health care simulations develop superior communication skills, and make fewer mistakes when they begin to treat real patients.

**Will I need to expose private parts of my body?** No. However, some patient portrayals require the standardized patient to wear a cloth hospital gown, but undergarments may remain on under the gown. An example of when a gown may be necessary is when the case requires the student to listen to the patient's heart or lungs or examine the patient's abdomen. Many cases do not require changing clothes and persons hired to be standardized patients can choose which cases they want to portray after learning all the requirements of the case.

**Will the students be practicing procedures that are painful or that cause discomfort?**
No. Standardized patients are used only for routine physical examinations. Invasive procedures are accomplished in the Clinical Learning Resource Center with part task trainers and manikins.

**If a student is examining me and I no longer feel comfortable with what we are doing, can I stop the process?**
Yes. The Clinical Learning Resource Center staff members are committed to making the experience a rewarding one for all involved.

**How do I apply?**
Visit [http://tamhsc.edu/clrc/standardized-patient-program.html](http://tamhsc.edu/clrc/standardized-patient-program.html) and follow the on screen instructions to submit your electronic application. To apply to the Temple SP Program, contact the program directly at mray@sw.org

**Contact Information:**

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