

WHAT IS A STANDARDIZED PATIENT?

A standardized patient, or SP, is a person hired and trained to act as a real patient to simulate a set of standardized symptoms or complaints for the training of future healthcare providers. SPs portray the roles of patients and family members to allow students to develop and practice skills related to collecting health histories, performing physical exams, communicating effectively, and providing patient/family teaching. SPs often provide faculty-guided verbal and/or written performance feedback to students. These learning/practice activities occur in a safe, simulated clinical environment.