

IRGF Final Report

Harvey - #103615

Understanding the Meaning of Psychological Harm Experienced by Undergraduate Nursing Students in Simulation”

1.1 Project Summary

Undergraduate nursing students who engage in simulation-based learning may experience psychological harm. Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics was used to explore the meaning of psychological harm experienced by undergraduate nursing students during simulation. A purposive sample was used to recruit nine students who were enrolled in the baccalaureate nursing program at Mount Royal University. Data collection involved conducting semi-structured interviews and the data was analyzed using the interpretive method of hermeneutics.

1.2 Project Outcomes and Impacts

Findings from this research revealed a range of responses from psychological harm, and that peer support may assist with navigating emotional distress. Psychological harm has the potential to impact students’ engagement and learning in the debrief and clinical environment. Participants’ experiences emphasized increased hesitance to accept subsequent leadership roles during simulation and uncertainty relative to future career choices. This study highlighted that psychological harm in simulation may influence students’ experiential learning and future simulation experiences.

2.1 Use of Awards Funds

The funds awarded were used to support the following activities: -hired a research assistant -hired a professional transcriptionist -provided participant gift cards -provided parking for participants who interviewed face-to-face at MRU -provided an honorarium to a team member who was available to assist with interviews if a conflict of interest arose

2.2 Additional Outcomes/Research Issues

N/A

2.3 Dissemination of Project

A draft manuscript has been completed and is currently being reviewed by all members of the research team. The goal is to submit the manuscript for publication next month (mid-late January). An abstract has been sent for the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning conference in Denver (Colorado) scheduled for June 19-22, 2025. I am still waiting to hear about whether the abstract (oral presentation) has been accepted. This project was completed as part of the INACSL research fellowship I was awarded in the spring (2023).

2.4 Future Research Plans

This project has informed next steps and future research that will explore the processes undergraduate nursing students use to make meaning of their experiences of psychological harm in simulation.