

HEALTH SCIENCES FACILITIES

In 2001, the Health Sciences building opened allowing for state-of-the-art equipment/teaching/learning activities. The Health Sciences Building has a realistic campus lab for skills that is among the best in the Alabama Community College System.

The design of the skills lab reflects the mission and philosophy of the Health Science Division: students should learn in an atmosphere that is realistic and in an environment which promotes trust and good working relationships with peers. To accomplish this, we have adopted an interdisciplinary approach to teaching/learning activities. Theory that is common to all the disciplines was identified. In the lab, students learn to work together with students from other disciplines. For example, in one area of the lab, all students learn skills associated with medication administration. There are no separate labs for EMS and nursing students, except those that realistically occur in the work setting.

The campus lab, designed as a small community hospital, allows for a realistic teaching-learning environment. Consider the following scenario: An ambulance pulls up to the ambulance bay, and a patient is taken to a room in the Emergency Department. EMS students help nursing students transfer the patient to the ER bed. EMS students give report to the nursing students on the patient's condition as it was upon arrival at the scene and during the transport. As the EMS students prepare for another run, nursing students take vital signs, start an IV, and place monitor leads on the patient. Radiography is notified that X-rays are needed, and radiography students transport the patient to the Radiography Department for a series of X-rays. A CT of the abdomen is needed to rule-out internal injuries, so the patient is transported to Computed Tomography. Family members talk with the patient briefly as he is transported to the Operating Room for surgery. Following surgery, the patient is transported to a five-bed ward where he will be cared for by nursing students until he is discharged. To plan for discharge, nursing students meet with the patient and family in the conference room.

Interactive learning in the classrooms is enhanced with LCD's that project the Internet and all types of clinical simulations available on CD-ROMs and videos. Two 24-station computer labs are open for student use. With access to the Internet and more than 200 computer programs, students enhance their learning through tutorials, review, drill, and clinical scenario practice. A student lounge provides a relaxing atmosphere for students before and after classes.

Imagine learning to be a paramedic, radiographer, surgical technician, or nurse in this environment! There's no better place for you.