

Understanding SIMTICS

Getting started

In a nutshell, SIMTICS helps you learn and practice healthcare procedures – not just the theory, but how to perform the procedure step-by-step. You learn by acting out each procedure on your computer using an online simulation. This enables you to focus, with no distractions – and practice as often as you want! It's very similar to the 'mental rehearsal' that sports people do to improve their performance. Each SIMTICS module covers one procedure or scan and covers everything you need to know with step-by-step Text, a Video demonstration, Anatomy model, an interactive Simulation, and a Quiz. Your personal logbook tracks what you study, your scores and completion times, and any errors in the simulations. Our goal is to help you increase your knowledge and competence, and be more confident. This means that when you get to a class, lab, sim center or clinical, you already know all the steps of the procedures, so you can concentrate on more advanced aspects and distinctions. The module menu is located on the Dashboard– or you can type part of a module name in the search bar near the top right, and press Enter or Go.

****There is a **TUTORIAL** on the website to help you get started. We recommend that you go through this first.

How to Navigate SIMTICS

Most SIMTICS modules have four main components (Explore, Anatomy, Simulation, Quiz). However, a few of the SIMTICS modules are a bit different because of the topics they cover and may only contain simulations or may not have any simulations at all.

For most SIMTICS modules:

After you've launched a module, use the navigation icons on the right-hand side of the screen to move between the components in the module. In the screenshot below, starting at the top, the 4 icons are for **Explore** (video and text), **Anatomy**, **Simulation**, **Quiz**. You can hover over each one to check what it is.



Exceptions to the above:

As mentioned, a few of our modules are a bit different from the others, depending on the topic they cover. Some may not have simulations at all, but they do still have text, video, anatomy and quiz. A few others only have simulations.

a) The following three modules contain simulations only - no quiz, no text or video, and no anatomy:

- Hand Hygiene (soap & water, hand sanitizer)
- Isolation PPE Protocol

What do I need to complete?

At a minimum, we recommend you go through SIMTICS in these stages:

1. Start with the **Explore** section. This will give you the background information you need to complete the procedure. It will provide detailed step-by-step instructions on how to perform the procedure, as well as show you a demonstration video.
2. Review the **Anatomy** section – this is here for you to “view”, so that you can understand the appropriate anatomy, prior to performing the procedure. Make sure to move the tool bar at the top, to dive into the deeper layers of the skin.
3. Next – go to the **Simulation** section. Begin with **Learn Mode FIRST**. This will guide you through the procedure and provide help if you get stuck. Once you have received an 80% or higher, feel free to take the Test Mode Simulation (or you can take the Practice Mode if you want to take a practice run of the test first). But make sure you take the **TEST MODE** Simulation, as that test will be the one to test your ability to “perform” the procedure. Keep in mind you can take the simulations as many times as you want. Retention is key – the more you complete then, the better you will get, and you will retain the procedure in your memory!
4. Finish by completing the multiple-choice quiz located in the **Quiz** section. Take your pick of completing the Owl Quiz or Flash Quiz, to test your knowledge of the procedure.

Your goal is to get an 80% or higher on the Simulations and Quiz!

How to move tools in a Simulation?

Because our product runs in common web browsers, the cursor control options are limited - so there are only **two possible movements you need to remember: side-to-side (horizontal) or up-and-down (vertical)**.

- Once you have selected an instrument or other item from the simulation Tools Panel - or an item (like a syringe) is "activated" on the screen - you simply need to click and drag your cursor in one of those two directions, depending on the step. This will automatically move the selected tool for you.
- Your cursor can be anywhere on the main background image, and the system will move the active or selected item for you (i.e. you don't need to click right *on* the tool).
- Also, don't try to move an item like you would in real life, such as trying to "turn" a dial - the web browser can't handle that. You only need to use one of those two directions mentioned above: **horizontal or vertical**.
- You will usually be able to guess which of those to use, based on the step. And if you try one movement direction but that doesn't work, then try the other type of movement. For example, if you've tried dragging horizontally across the screen (both to the left and to the right) and that didn't work, then use a vertical movement instead.
- If you follow this advice and you're still having trouble, you might want to go back to the Tutorial to refresh yourself on how the simulations work. There's a sample simulation where you can try this kind of thing out.

Important notes:

- To ensure that your study time and scores are recorded in your logbook, make sure that you log out cleanly with the Logout button (top right corner) when you've finished. Do not let your session time out and don't just close the browser window before logging out. If you do, the system won't be able to finalize and log your scores.
- To obtain a **Certificate of Completion**, you must have at least 60 minutes of study time and score at least 80% in a Test Mode simulation. For modules that don't have simulations (e.g. Ultrasound Physics), then you must score at least 80% in a quiz.

Additional HELP Resources:

- If you get stuck, please use the Intercom Chat feature in the software (there will be a popup in the lower right corner). You can also search help articles here: [SIMTICS Help Center \(intercom.help\)](#)
- **Student "Frequently Asked Questions" can be found here:** [Student FAQs | SIMTICS Help Center \(intercom.help\)](#)