

**YOU**  
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in Medical School!



**Kado Family  
Clinical Skills Center**

Wayne State University School of Medicine

# Standardized Patient Program

Division of Conjoint Teaching Services  
**Wayne State University School of Medicine**  
**The Kado Family Clinical Skills Center**  
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School of Medicine

## What is a Standardized Patient?

A Standardized Patient (SP) is a layperson trained to present a clinical scenario just like a “real” patient for teaching or testing.



## What does a Standardized Patient **DO**?

Portray the role of a patient with a specific medical history and physical condition.

Provide constructive feedback to the student from the patient's point of view.

Assess student performances and provide a grade.

## Standardized Patients **DO NOT**:

Replace students' experiences with real patients.

Undergo invasive or potentially harmful examinations or procedures such as rectal or pelvic exams or injections.

# What are the benefits of using SP's instead of real patients?

Unlike an actual patient, the SP is not ill or worried about their care, allowing the SP to focus on the student's actions.

Students can practice their approach to a patient in a safe environment without the fear of making a mistake or saying something wrong which may upset the patient.

The SP is trained to portray a scenario identically every time, allowing each student a standardized learning opportunity.

Testing students' patient skills using SPs ensures a more predictable and fair assessment.



## What Qualifications do I need to become a Standardized Patient?

### We are looking for people

- from all walks of life
- of all shapes and sizes
- of all ages and both sexes
- with good communication skills
- with a genuine interest in helping students learn
- with reasonably flexible hours



## How am I trained and prepared to be a Standardized Patient?

Potential SPs should contact us to begin the application process. Potential SPS will be filling out an information form that will allow us to better match them with suitable cases. Potential SPs are contacted by one of our staff and may be invited to come for an interview.

Program staff contact and discuss potential cases or scenarios with SPs before giving training materials.

Case materials are given to SPs to review.

SPs portraying the same case meet as a group with the SP trainer for training, practice and standardization.

For certain case SPs are trained to provide feedback and/or score student performance.

Training can take between 5 and 15 hours spread over 3-5 sessions. The amount of time needed will depend on the complexity of the case and SP's experience.

Before encountering students, SPs are required to successfully present or demonstrate their character for a faculty physician or SP trainer not directly involved with the training.



## What are SPs used for?

Students learn to interview/examine a patient and gather information needed to help diagnose their problem.

Students practice effective interpersonal skills to better communicate with patients.

Students learn appropriate techniques and approaches for physical examination of patients.

Students learn techniques to counsel patients in a variety of circumstances on a variety of issues.

Students gain experience with challenging issues such as breaking bad news.

Testing students and resident physicians in any of the above.



## What are the personal benefits of becoming an SP?

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Awareness that you are making a significant contribution to the training of our future physicians and health care providers.

Development and fine-tuning of your own interpersonal communication skills.

Gaining a better understanding of how our health care system works.

Meeting new people with a common interest.

Modest financial compensation.

## Interested in learning more about the Standardized Patient Program?

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**Please contact:**

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