

Fake disaster teaches real skills



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East Carolina nursing student Kristen Crabtree, right, directs patients during a mock disaster drill on Saturday.

ECU nursing, medical students face challenges posed by disaster drill.

BY KAREN ECKERT

Staff Writer

The situation was fake, but the skills were real at a simulated disaster at the East Carolina University College of Nursing.

Students from the school's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, junior and senior level nursing students and first- and second-year students in the Brody School of Medicine, learned how to develop a plan of action, create treatment teams and work together in a mass casualty simulation with live actors, according to organizers.

"It's about trying to do the most good in the limited amount of time you have, unfortunately," said medical student Sahil Dayal, who participated



A nursing student triages patients during a mock disaster drill at East Carolina University's College of Nursing on Saturday



PHOTOS BY MOLLY URBINA/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

Nursing students practice starting an IV during a mock disaster exercise at East Carolina's College of Nursing on Saturday.

DISASTER

Continued from A1

in Saturday's drill.

Saturday's scenario was a post-shooting event, he said.

During the simulation, students triaged patients then headed to labs to practice components of treating and stabilizing victims, including core skills like hemorrhage control and airway management, according to organizers.

Several stations were set up in classrooms in the College of Nursing building, and students rotated among them, practicing different skill sets at each one, said Laura Gantt, associate dean of Support Services in the College of Nursing.

The simulated disaster allows the students to pull together a lot of necessary skills, Gantt said.

This is the second year that Brody and the nursing school have joined together

for the drill, and approximately 45 students participated, she said.

Gantt's counterpart at the medical school, Walter C. "Skip" Robey, the assistant dean in the Office of Clinical Simulation, also was on hand to oversee the event.

The students from the two schools like the opportunity to work together on this project because it reflects real-life where they know they will be working together in the future, he said.

"I know as a med student it's really helpful to have the clinical exposure to apply what I'm learning (and) to see it," Dayal said. "I can learn about why there's high blood pressure and all these things, but to see the reasons for it and how to treat it in the moment, also, is very helpful."

Karen Eckert can be reached at 252-329-9565 or at keckert@reflector.com.