

ROI of High Fidelity Simulation in Hospital Education



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As healthcare systems invest millions in simulation labs, leaders must ensure these centers deliver measurable returns.

This white paper explores how hospitals can maximize simulation lab ROI through strategic utilization, robust accreditation justification, and data-driven value capture. Anchored in healthcare simulation literature from 2024–2025, it provides operational frameworks aligned with SSH standards and AHRQ best practices.

1. Expand Utilization to Maximize Value

- A 2025 survey underscores that simulation centers with multidisciplinary use generate higher ROI and funding sustainability. Usage tracking is essential to secure institutional support.
- Centers serving nursing, physicians, allied health, and systems testing maximize hours per simulator and amortize setup costs across departments.
- Fee-for-service models and shared-use agreements sustain viable operations and usage data is critical for justification.

2. Use Accreditation for Strategic Justification

- Pursuing Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) accreditation strengthens institutional credibility and justifies funding, especially when demonstrating alignment with core standards in assessment, research, teaching, and systems testing.
- A mixed-methods study of 235 accredited programs found administrators report accreditation drives structure, governance improvements, staff growth, and resource acquisition—all tied to ROI.

3. Present ROI Through Value-Based Metrics

- The VBSH (Value-Based Simulation in Healthcare) model offers a framework combining service, expertise, system-level, and financial outcomes—not just training evaluation tiers.
- ROI proposals should describe comparison scenarios (e.g., traditional vs simulation-based training) and incorporate both tangible and intangible benefits.
- Economic comparisons show virtual simulation costs between \$2–14/use vs \$28–394/use for physical simulation, offering up to 74% cost reduction when managing at scale.

4. Emerging ROI Drivers (2025–2026)

- **Hybrid Programs:** Combining virtual pre-briefing modules with in-lab simulation to increase throughput and accessibility across hospital systems.
- **Data-Driven Debriefing Tools:** Automating performance tracking to reduce faculty workload and standardize assessment.
- **Cross-Site Networks:** Linking simulation centers across hospital systems to share scenarios, instructors, and best practices—reducing duplication and improving consistency.

Why This Matters for Hospital Simulation Leaders

Key Strategy	ROI Mechanism
Multidisciplinary Utilization	Increases usage hours per device, maximizes cost leverage
Accreditation Alignment	Strengthens institutional commitment and compliance justification
Value-Based Metrics	Enables finance teams to see measurable benefits and reductions
Scalable Technology & Delivery	Expands reach and reduces per-user cost over time

See Your Potential ROI

Use our detailed [“How to Calculate ROI for Your Hospital Simulation Lab” tool](#) to calculate your potential returns, assess utilization gaps, and build a compelling accreditation justification package.

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