

# WGU COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Building skills for nursing  
students to thrive in the  
future of healthcare



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CASE STUDY

wgu labs

## WGU College of Health Professions: Building skills for nursing students to thrive in the future of healthcare

How does WGU's College of Health Professions (HP) empower their nursing graduates to thrive in a lifelong career? They design innovative and industry-responsive courses that lead the way for nurses to provide exceptional care to patients, navigate complex institutional systems, and model ethical leadership for their peers.

When HP creates a new course, they need it to be relevant, maintain high standards, and keep students engaged. For their *Healthcare Policy and Economics* course, HP enlisted WGU Labs (Labs) and Red Flag Mania, a [Labs partner](#), to design activities that delight students while developing much-needed skills for the future of nursing. Students take on the role of a nurse immersed in a medical mystery while learning how to personalize patient care, how to approach legal implications and organizational ethics, and understand how policy impacts healthcare.

## How do we teach nurses to provide care for the patient as a whole person?

In designing their new course, *Healthcare Policy and Economics*, HP needed their students to encounter realistic activities that challenge existing views about care and translate to their careers in real ways.

HP needed to prepare their nurses to:

- respond with empathy to a patient's personal situation and care preferences
- be aware of the costs involved in healthcare and the value of providing each patient with options
- realize the weight of their choices when working with patients

Who's the culprit?



What does it all mean for  
the patients?

Watch [When We Heal Trailer](#)

## Engaging and Effective Learning for Nurses

**Something isn't quite right at the oncology clinic – patient responses to chemotherapy treatments just aren't making sense. Do you follow your nurse's intuition or just let it go?**

Students join in on the hunt to learn the truth. HP's custom-built solution invites students into a true-life nurse-centric mystery, where they become nurse detectives and practice their judgement on ethical issues and corporate responsibility. From making sense of hidden clues to scrutinizing patient files in an engaging "investigative desktop" experience, students find the puzzle pieces and assemble them into the larger picture.

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Beneath the mystery of drug company executives, receipts, and patient records, Red Flag Mania provides an immersive narrative and a robust platform that perfectly aligns with HP's learning needs. Labs developed asynchronous activities for nursing students to build skills, working through scenarios and decisions similar to what they will face when caring for real patients.



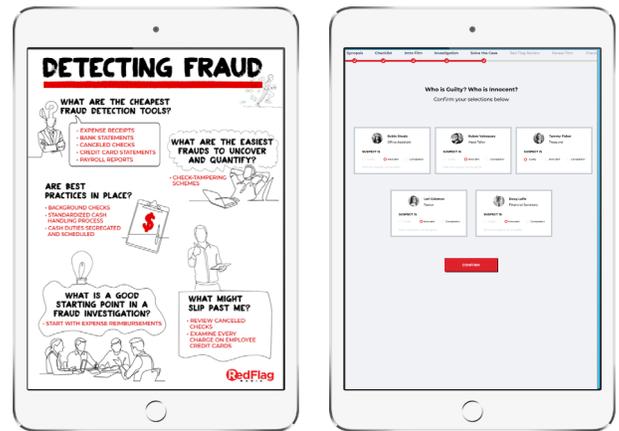
### ENGAGE LEARNERS THROUGH STORYTELLING

The learner is immersed in real-world events through video and text setting up a series of tasks and decisions that focus student learning.



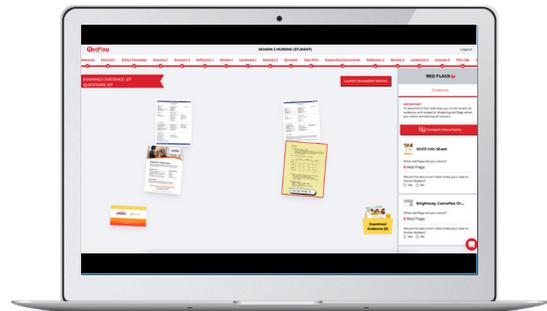
### PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION

The learner is presented with visuals to help solidify their knowledge and make connections with the concepts they are learning.



### APPLY JUDGMENT FOR WISE DECISION-MAKING

The learner reflects on how they might respond in an ambiguous scenario, which is similar to the uncertainty they may encounter in their careers.



### SIMULATE REAL-WORLD CONTEXT

The learner reviews a complex patient file to determine if the patient received proper care. This activity requires judgement, pattern recognition, as well as basic knowledge of terms and concepts.

## Assessing Mastery in WGU's CBE model

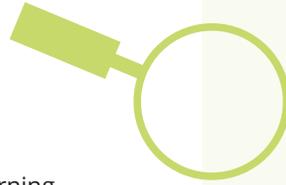
With WGU's CBE model, measuring student learning becomes doubly important: when the student can prove their mastery in this course, it translates into improved care for real patients.

While combing through clues to the puzzle, students answer ambiguous questions and consider implications for patient care. They encounter two types of assessments that serve different functions:

1. **Formative assessments** double as instruction by prompting the learner to retrieve information already learned or challenging the learner to assess their comprehension by comparing their own responses to an expert answer.
2. For CBE, **summative assessments** show mastery by challenging the learner to rely on knowledge, judgement, and a deeper understanding – for example, asking the learner to choose a 'best' answer from a set of other answers that could also be interpreted as correct. Results from the summative assessment seamlessly pass completion status to the WGU Learning Management System.

## What's next?

As HP launches their new course in February 2022 – reaching approximately 2,000 students per month – they will rigorously measure success based on data from assessments and course experience surveys. Any updates will be informed by these key data as their nursing program shapes innovative nursing education.



*"I had the opportunity to work with WGU Labs in adopting one of their partners in our curriculum. WGU Labs was an excellent partner for us as well as for the vendor. They were able to quickly resolve compatibility and accessibility issues. The end product from the vendor was seamlessly integrated into our virtual course and included formative as well as summative assessments. The work that WGU Labs does for vendors and colleges is very valuable."*

—Janeen Berndt, Program Chair Academic Programs, College of Health Professions



*"WGU Labs was instrumental in helping us create a robust catalogue of engaging courses. Our LXD team was efficient, smart and helpful in carrying out our vision while caring for the user journey. I'd recommend WGU Labs to any company ready to strengthen its learning outcomes and deliver insightful products."*

—Roni Jackson, Co-CEO Red Flag Mania

# YOUR STUDENTS ARE READY TO EXPERIENCE COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

## CONTACT

**Jason Levin**  
Executive Director  
<https://wgulabs.org/>  
[jason.levin@wgulabs.org](mailto:jason.levin@wgulabs.org)

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