Institution Profile

**Overview:** Shasta College, a two-year community college located in Redding, California, offers 136 college programs for 8,400 students, including an Associate Degree in Nursing, a degree for Nurse’s Aide, and one for Licensed Vocational Nurse. It is part of the California Community College system.

**Accreditations:** Shasta College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Its Vocational Nursing Program Approval Certificate is from the Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

**Notable Facilities:** A 44,000-square-foot Health Sciences and University Center opened in the fall of 2007.

**Founded:** 1965 | **Website:** www.shastacollege.edu

**CHALLENGES**

- Shasta College was looking for an electronic health record (EHR) training solution to enhance classroom learning and provide ways to introduce more patient-centered or case-based activity. The college needed a solution that would:
  - Replace previous academic EHR, which Shasta College found problematic because of the difficulty in getting information into it, and because it did not allow teaching staff to build their own case studies.
  - Best train students for working with electronic health records. As of 2015, the use of patient records within practice will be a required skill for graduates.
  - Allow instructors and simulation lab coordinators to add another level of realism to scenarios as students learn to care for patients and handle electronic health records.
  - Teach students how to evaluate and document patient care within an electronic health record and prepare students for any EHR that they may encounter in practice.

**SOLUTION**

Lippincott DocuCare is an electronic health record training solution designed to teach students to think critically about documentation and patient care and to prepare them for practice. Shasta College chose Lippincott DocuCare rather than go with an open source solution because of the limited technical support open source solutions offer. With Lippincott DocuCare, Shasta College:

- Started off with over 200 pre-built pre-loaded cases, and then built new, customized ones as needs arose.
- Has students take real-life information from work they do in health care facilities, and use DocuCare to write up health assessments and focused-case plans for patients.
- Created adaptable cases in its simulation hospital, giving students hands-on experience with changing situations they may encounter in health facilities.
- Allows Instructors to customize patient records to meet their needs and build their own cases from scratch.

**RESULTS**

Since deploying Lippincott DocuCare, Shasta College has seen these benefits:

- Student accuracy in blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respiration, IV fluid, and output is now in the usually accurate and always accurate categories after DocuCare use.
- In oral intake documentation, the number of students who were accurate in charting improved by 6% between Semesters 1 and 2 after the use of DocuCare.
- Faculty created 12 assignments using DocuCare in the first semester alone.
- Sixty students submit assignments within the system in each semester.
- Fourteen patient scenarios have been submitted in the simulation lab using DocuCare.
- Classroom learning has been enhanced, and more patient-centered or case-based activities have been introduced.
- Student outcomes and their readiness for practice and testing have been improved.

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"DocuCare has improved our students’ charting performance and critical thinking, and makes them much better prepared for practice after graduation. As a teacher, it lets me give immediate feedback to students and helps them develop clinical reasoning and influences their ability to perform clinical skills."

- Carel Mountain, Assistant Director and full-time faculty for the Nursing Program for Shasta College.

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**Highlights**

- Students who used DocuCare in the Shasta College simulation hospital reported increased confidence in their electronic charting ability and comfort level.

- DocuCare closely mimics the EHRs used in the hospitals near Shasta College, making sure that Shasta nursing students graduate with significant experience with systems used at facilities to which they might apply.

- Nursing faculty use DocuCare to closely track and monitor students’ charting skills and accuracy, and use that information to provide feedback and improve performance.

- DocuCare has given students classroom experience that will translate directly to practice and be a strong addition to a job interview because many hiring managers now consider documentation a required skill set.