

WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

Simulators can be assigned to one of five categories. In general, the more lifelike the product, the more expensive it is. Here's a look at simulator categories and their characteristics.

	Model-driven	Instructor-driven	Virtual reality	Computer model	Task-specific model
Learner interacts with a physical body	Yes	Yes	Some	No	Some
Learner gets automatic responses to interventions	Yes	No	Some	Yes	No
Simulator gives performance feedback without an instructor present	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Learner can work through module with an instructor	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Start-up cost	\$250,000	\$40,000	\$250,000	\$1,000 to \$20,000	\$1,000 to \$20,000

SOURCE: PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SIMULATION LAB