



VIRTUAL REALITY SIMULATIONS FOR ELEVATING EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE

MURSION®

Reinventing The Way Professionals Master Their Craft

MURSION®

WHO WE ARE

Mursion is the virtual reality environment where professionals practice and master the complex interpersonal skills necessary to be effective in high-stakes professions. We deliver customized, virtual reality simulations that recreate the most demanding interpersonal challenges professionals confront on the job every day.

WHAT WE DO

Mursion's technology is being used by more than 65 universities and other programs to prepare pre-service K-12 teachers for the challenges of teaching in today's classrooms. Similarly, K-12 school systems use Mursion to help teachers hone their skills once on the job. A wide range of techniques can be rehearsed in Mursion's virtual reality simulator, including managing classrooms, working with children with special needs, practicing specific instructional routines relevant to a particular subject area, and leading difficult conversations. With a digital library of characters and immersive environments, Mursion simulates challenging interpersonal, on-the-job exchanges. These virtual reality simulations offer:

- An engaging, efficient, and safe way to **learn by doing**
- A window into the **performance capacity** of your learners
- An **agile format** to adapt content as your needs change
- A standardized, personalized, and **scalable** approach to practicing and assessing performance mastery of complex skills

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Mursion's unique blend of virtual reality technology and live human performance creates powerful and immersive learning simulations. Research suggests that this is the most powerful model for simulating authentic interpersonal exchanges. When virtual avatars are properly blended with human interactors, it is possible to induce very powerful behavioral and emotional responses. Learners actually become empathetic to the emotions, abilities and circumstances of the avatar. Interacting with virtual characters in virtual reality gives rise to specific character-dependent changes in behavior, ranging from pain perception to implicit racial bias. These results indicate that virtual reality stimuli can be used to replicate complex social situations.



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Simulate Critical Conversations

Contrary to those who think that leadership is innate, Mursion believes that leadership skills are developed through iterative practice, feedback, and coaching. Cutting-edge organizations leverage Mursion's platform to place leaders in virtual environments that mimic the most challenging interpersonal situations they face on the job:

- Facilitate difficult conversations
- Conduct performance interventions and coaching
- Communicate sensitive messages
- Communicate effectively with parents
- Provide feedback to a struggling teacher
- Facilitate team meetings to improve instruction and address achievement gaps

"We all know that practice ... in every new behaviour and skill that we gain ... makes all the difference. But until now it's been really hard to find good venues to practice leadership skills and behaviours. Mursion's unique virtual reality platform offers a great environment to practice and refine the behaviours and skills that leaders need to develop."

– Debra Hunter
Former President,
Jossey-Bass and Pfeiffer

SPOTLIGHT

In partnership with one of the top ten largest school districts in the nation, Mursion is developing an innovative simulation program for aspiring school leaders. After practicing the skills for improving quality of instructional leadership in an interactive simulation, **aspiring school leaders demonstrate mastery of effective communication with educators, families, and community stakeholders.** A series of customized scenarios, unique to district needs, provide safe opportunities for aspiring leaders to have challenging conversations, so they can learn from mistakes before leading schools.



TEACHER PREPARATION

“We are excited about the opportunity to partner again with Mursion to further support the use of simulation in our educator preparation programs that give preservice teachers the opportunity to practice essential skills in low-risk settings in an effort to receive high quality feedback and improve their practice before beginning their student teaching experience.”

– Liz Losee, Director for Educator Preparation and Assessment DESE (Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)

Provide Rich Opportunities for Practice

Mursion’s technology is being used by more than 65 universities and other programs to prepare pre-service K-12 teachers for the challenges of teaching in today’s classroom. Mursion has a dedicated bank of scenarios available to all users:

- **Classroom Management:** Candidates work through four levels of increasingly difficult challenges.
- **Family Engagement:** Candidates take part in four parent conferences at different times during the school year that increase in intensity.
- **Eliciting Student Thinking:** Using high leverage practices, candidates pose questions that provoke students to share their thinking about the content.
- **Leading Classroom Discussion:** Using high leverage practices, candidates facilitate a group discussion to build collective knowledge on specific content.

SPOTLIGHT

Educational Testing Service is currently designing and piloting the **National Observational Teaching Exam (NOTE)**, a state-of-the-art assessment for licensure that evaluates a prospective teacher’s ability to translate knowledge of content and teaching into practice in the classroom in a series of performance tasks using Mursion’s virtual reality platform, including leading a classroom discussion with a provided lesson plan and eliciting student thinking about student work and content.



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Mursion Outperforms Traditional Professional Development Methods

A national research project was conducted to discover whether training in the virtual classroom could produce measurable changes in teacher practices and outperform more traditional professional development methods. Researchers found that after four 10-minute professional learning sessions in the simulator, teachers significantly outperformed their colleagues in targeted teaching behaviors.*

Mursion leverages virtual reality simulations to improve key instructional skills. Veterans and novice teachers alike can practice teaching strategies in a virtual setting, pause and reflect on practice, and try new techniques without losing valuable instructional time.

- Classroom Management
- IEP Meetings
- Instructional Strategies Aligned with Content
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Customized Scenarios for District Initiatives

“The more we use Mursion, the more we see the incredible value it has to our teachers, leaders, and students. There is genuine excitement around our use of such and innovative and authentic tool.”

– Cory Kapelski
Professional Learning Developer, Alexandria City Public Schools

*Straub, C., Dieker, L., Hynes, M., & Hughes, C. (2015). Using virtual rehearsal in TLE TeachLivE mixed reality classroom simulator to determine the effects of the performance of science teachers: A follow-up study (year 2). 2015 TeachLivE National Research Project: Year 2 Findings. University of Central Florida: Orlando, FL.



STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Emerging Work with Students with Special Needs

Mursion's partners are exploring how virtual simulation can be used to both improve the communication and social skills of children with special needs, and train teachers, social workers and behavioral therapists who regularly work with them. What follows are examples of how Mursion's platform is being leveraged in this emerging field:

- **Alexandria City Public Schools** is exploring how Mursion's virtual classroom can be used to embed social skills among students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). After completing targeted social skills simulations, students held longer conversations and increased their use of comments and questions with social partners.
- **University of Central Florida** is conducting pilot studies that modify traditional, face-to-face evidence-based peer interventions to be delivered online with peer-avatars. Initial findings indicate that after 10-minute sessions in the simulator twice weekly for 10 -12 weeks, students with ASD increased their frequency of targeted social interactions.
- **Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education** in partnership with Mursion is designing a set of simulations that will be used by educator preparation programs across the Mursion network to improve the use of inclusive pedagogies.

Special Population Avatars:

In 2017, Mursion will unveil a series of special population scenarios and avatars, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education. Development work is currently taking place with an advisory board of experts to design simulations the following avatars:

- *A middle school male with ASD*
- *A middle school male with a learning difference*
- *A middle school female English Language Learner*
- *Parent of a child with special needs*

Mursion seeks to partner with other innovative organizations that wish to explore how live, virtual simulations can be leveraged to improve outcomes for children with special needs.

MURSION®

OUR APPROACH

Mursion's virtual reality platform uses a combination of artificial intelligence and live actors to deliver powerful and personalized simulations. Simulations can be delivered in workshops, virtual settings, online courses, or re-engagement exercises at a learner's desk. Mursion can score the simulation and provide live feedback. Alternatively, managers or coaches can attend sessions live or watch recorded sessions to provide feedback.

Outperforms Traditional and Video-Based Role Playing



IMMERSIVE

Traditional role play rarely replicates the real-life stress that learners need to develop effective interpersonal skills.



SCALABILITY & EFFICIENCY

Within a matter of seconds, Mursion can switch environments, avatars, and scenarios to provide a highly dynamic training environment. Mursion offers deeply interactive online training sessions that let your staff practice and stay engaged all year around.



CUSTOMIZATION

All of our simulation scenarios are customized to meet the unique learning objectives of our clients. Mursion's platform enables clients to build avatars and environments that match their unique customers and brand.



MASTERY

Defined proficiency standards can be measured for various experience levels and can form the basis for future training and coaching.

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