

TABLE 11.1. Change in Simulation Platform

Obstacles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A genuine learning experience requires dedicated educators:</i> a full learning cycle builds on the central role and major impact of ongoing contacts with an educator on an individual and group basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Traditional learning environments no longer suffice:</i> varied digital stimuli, a wealth of resources, and multiple cyber tools are available on the Internet. All these have become a central part of daily life but a core element in only some academic institutions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distance learning has proliferated:</i> competition among academic institutions that offer online courses has increased considerably, and quality programs with exciting and practical elements are in demand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The human touch in learning is indispensable:</i> through centuries of human evolution, eye contact, speech intonations, non-verbal communication, and charisma have become an integral part of learning heuristics. But it is still hard to include these elements in cyber communications.
Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrate social networks and other web platforms as teaching aids:</i> online features have already become a familiar mode of communication among students, so it is useful to incorporate them into the learning environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Keep the human touch intact:</i> couple physical and virtual platforms and add cyber tools, like Skype and YouTube, as supplementary or major platforms for simulations that retain a human dimension.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Create a theatrical setting:</i> add physical and digital accessories to enhance the authentic atmosphere of the simulated world. Use products created by media teams to enrich the simulation and help participants step into the story and roles they play.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stay tuned and integrate new cyber applications:</i> add novel alternatives and improvements for the simulations you run as they become available and popular.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduce simulation costs:</i> recycle, adjust, and archive forms, scenarios, assignments, instructions for participants, and theatrical accessories you create for use from one simulation to another.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Secure privacy:</i> create closed groups on social networks for educational purposes, with your students as the only authorized members.