Mursion@ECU in Action: A Brief Overview

Mursion provides an immersive experience in a safe space preparing ECU students for the real world by providing an opportunity for repeat practice and immediate feedback.

- Available for educator preparation, sales and leadership, counseling and psychiatry, human resources, hospitality, medical office and doctor and nurse preparation
- Educator preparation programs that have used Mursion include Special Education, Elementary and Middle Grades Education, Art, and Masters in School Administration.

Current objectives of the Mursion@ECU team:
- Integrate Mursion as a component of Educator Preparation curriculum
- Align educator development & faculty/program research goals and expand opportunities

“It gives you the exact same . . . feeling in your heart . . . as if it was a real classroom and they’re avatars, they’re fake. . . . So the fact that it still gives you that exact same feeling when you’re standing in front of real students is just amazing.”

- Makenzie Evans
  English Education Major

Recent enhancements:
- Dedicated state of the art lab
- Purchase of a site license making it easier and more convenient for faculty to use

The Mursion@ECU Educator Development Program

- Grant to support K-12 schools and districts in North Carolina with awards up to 25 hours for Mursion lab usage and scenario development (a $3,750 value)
- Awards totaling $26,250 to 7 grantees in 6 counties, serving 225+ Beginning Teachers and 23,500+ students
- Proposals focused primarily on Beginning Teachers.

Three skill development themes emerged:
- Classroom management, including behavior, activity transitions, classroom discourse
  - Effective communication with parents, students, fellow faculty, administrators
  - Strategies to practice theory- and research-based pedagogy

“It is almost like . . . if we want to grow and learn it is through technology and though that is not the only avenue this is a very effective way, in my opinion, because it is something we can relate to. We can relate to images on the screens because that is how we interact with one another now.”

- Liz Jackson
  Principal Fellow
**Mursion@ECU Research**

**Completed projects**

- User experience/perception pilot project by Voytecki, Hudson, & Zhang (SPED Faculty)
- Stakeholder analysis by Fales (incorporated into various presentations & publications)

**Grant applications under consideration**

- NSF’s Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) grant to explore how teaching simulation activities affects teachers’ use of classroom discourse (interdisciplinary, Wilson & Fales co-PIs)
- US DoE Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant to examine the effects on teacher retention & attrition of a three-phased, lateral entry-focused PD program incorporating interactive simulation activities (Cuthrell, Wilson, Fales)

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**Mursion@ECU Contact Information**

Christine Wilson  
wilsonc@ecu.edu  
328-1143

Holly Fales  
heath@ecu.edu  
737-5191

www.ecu.edu/mursion  
mursion@ecu.edu  
225 Speight Building

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**SIMULATION ENVIRONMENTS**

**Middle School**

Originally designed as a teacher training simulator, this virtual environment has also been used to build the interpersonal skills of children with autism spectrum disorder. (New class coming in Spring 2018.)

**Upper Elementary School**

The upper elementary students are designed for grades 3-5 by ETS as part of an NSF grant. They have the ability to show their work by using tablets at their desks. (Coming soon.)

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**The Office**

These simulated offices with a female or male avatar can be used for simulations that prepare learners for intense interpersonal interactions.

**Customer Service**

Originally designed as a simulator for hospitality customer service training, this virtual environment includes three individual avatars (two female and one male). It is also used for customer service scenarios outside hospitality, such as banking or retail.

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**Healthcare**

This virtual medical examination room with a single female avatar is used for standardized patient training.