



White Paper

How Casa Loma Tripled MRI Program Enrollment with ScanLabMR

A study on Casa Loma College's utilization of ScanLab MRI simulation to improve our MRI Technologist Program and accelerate the development of clinically competent technologists, thereby increasing enrollment, improving graduation rates, and boosting revenue.

Executive Summary

"With ScanLabMR, we had one of the most successful terms in recent history. We tripled our lecture size with superior results."

Scott Sand, President, Casa Loma College

The healthcare industry is experiencing a surge in demand for MRI technologists and radiologic professionals due to pandemic-induced burnout and post-COVID retirement boom. Employment of MRI technologists is projected to grow by 6% from 2022 to 2032, with an annual average of 15,700 openings. This puts educational institutions in the hot seat to quickly train the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Casa Loma College has been a non-profit institution serving the professional healthcare community of Los Angeles since 1966. Our 22-month Associate of Applied Science Degree in Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a blended learning program encompassing general education, medical-focused topics, and clinical practicum through online and in-person classes.

In this case study, leadership at Casa Loma explore how the implementation of ScanLabMR dramatically improved our MRI Technologist Program. We'll explore how we leveraged this virtual MRI simulation tool to accelerate the development of clinically competent technologists, seeing a 7% increase in graduation rates and 12% boost in job placements. All of this within one year while enrollment tripled, translating to an additional \$280,000 in revenue without significant extra costs.

3X

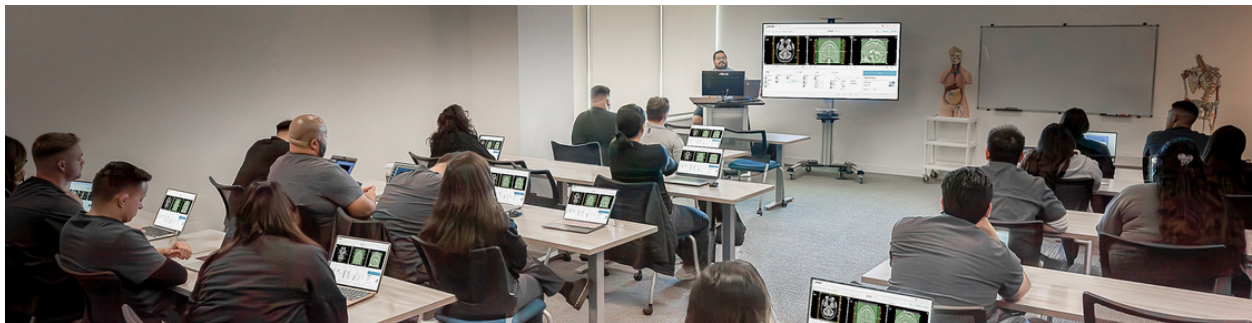
**Program
Enrollment**

7%

**Increase in
Graduation Rate**

\$280,000

**Net
Revenue**



Background

The Traditional Education Model is Broken

There are only 75 MRI Technologist programs in the US, equipping students with clinical-ready skills to fill those growing annual vacancies. By the end of their training, students must be ready to pass the ARMRIT (American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists) or ARRT (American Registry Of Radiologic Technologists) professional credentialing exam. To qualify for the exams, applicants must achieve competency in 28 areas over 1,000 hours of clinical experience. Casa Loma's expectation for our students is to achieve 10 competencies in the first 500 hours of their externship and 18 competencies in the second 500 hours.

We'd been following a traditional education model that begins with foundational didactic learning (teacher-centered presentation of abstract principles) in the classroom before in-person training at externships. But under that model, students were burdened with bridging the gap between theory and practice while immersed in the fast-paced and demanding healthcare environment. This learning curve can be overwhelming and ineffective for many students, further impacting their training as clinical preceptors don't feel they are prepared to start scanning.

It had become a pain point for Simone Quinto, our Associate Professor and Director of

Magnetic Resonance Imaging: "One of the huge challenges I was having as a program director was the loss of productivity when students entered their externships. Students have 30 weeks in an externship setting, and because of their lack of training, clinical sites would have students wait 4-13 weeks before touching the scanner."

Remote Learning Offers a New Approach

When the pandemic hit, Professor Quinto had to find a way for students to get scanning experience remotely. She had experience with other MRI simulators and knew this was the best option, but did not have great experiences with other platforms that were available on the market. None met the high standards she had for her students by offering a realistic scanning environment, training and assessment features, until she discovered ScanLab.



We implemented ScanLabMR, ScanLab's virtual MRI scanning and training app, along with ImagingU, the didactic counterpart. Having worked with other simulators in both teaching positions and individual instruction, Professor Quinto immediately recognized that ScanLabMR offered a more advanced and comprehensive learning experience—far beyond traditional simulation tools.

While there were some anticipated challenges in adopting a new learning solution, our faculty and staff, in collaboration with the ScanLab team, developed a formula for success.

Students were introduced to ScanLabMR before clinicals began, and the platform quickly became an integral part of our curriculum. Anchoring the virtual platform as part of the official curriculum through the following components was critical:

- **Introduce New Technology Early** - Provide students access to ScanLab for use in sandbox mode at least one week before clinicals start. This allows for students to get comfortable with the user experience and basic elements.
- **Test and Measure** - Make ScanLab a graded portion of the curriculum, with a requirement of 10 examinations per body part.
- **Align with Classroom Learning** - Correlate ScanLab sections with what's being taught in classroom lectures to reinforce knowledge.

ScanLab is now used to reinforce what's being taught in the classroom: "After lecture, everyone opens ScanLabMR, and follows along with what is being projected onto the screen in the room," says Professor Quinto. "I have to tell my students that their scan might not be the same one that's being shown. This is part of what makes the system so great: students get access to different patient profiles and must use critical thinking and problem-solving skills."

After working with ScanLab's material, we recognized gaps in our own curriculum, and have revised it several times to include new courses such as MRI Pathology. The new curriculum augmented to mirror ScanLab has contributed to making Casa Loma more competitive.

As learning shifted back to in-person, that's when we were able to compare results to what we had witnessed previously. With a new learning tool in hand, we were able to improve the experience for our students.

Deeper Clinical Engagement Means Greater Success for MRI Students

Because a virtual training platform offers a realistic but risk-free environment in which to practice, students engage in practical exercises earlier and more often, enhancing their readiness for clinical rotations. More exposure to anatomy and medical terminology has increased our students' communication skills and depth of understanding. The enhanced student experience accelerates their competency development, confidence, and employability.

Led by and paired with the expertise and experience of our faculty, ScanLabMR has transformed outcomes for our MRI students.

More Equitable Clinical Experience

With diverse patient scenarios, slice prescription, image contrast parameters and spatial resolution, and exams that focus on safety and critical thinking, our students' clinical experiences are no longer solely dictated by facility placement.

Earlier Scanning Onset

Students were able to begin scanning in a clinical setting 60% earlier than previously experienced.

Improved Competencies and Exams

Within the first 500 hours of their externship, 75% of students mastered 10-25 competencies. Students also experienced improved performance on both ARMRT and ARRT exams.

Increased Job Placement

Not only are students being sought out for clinical site placement, we've also seen a 12% increase in job placement rates. This is the ultimate measure of success for our students.



Institutional Growth and Market Competitiveness

Improvements in clinical preparedness and job placement have solidified our institution's reputation as a leader in MRI education. The program has seen gains across key performance indicators, including enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

Stronger applicant pools and increased selectivity

We have transitioned from a 100% acceptance rate for our MRI program—previously necessary to meet minimum enrollment—to a more selective admissions process. Applications now exceed available seats by 1.5 to 2 times, and prospective students come from increasingly diverse backgrounds, including professionals with advanced degrees.

Higher retention and financial impact

Traditionally, students drop in terms 1, 2, or 3, meaning that retention beyond term 4 directly impacts institutional revenue. Between 2020 and 2021, enrollment tripled, and the graduation rate rose 7%, from 54% to 61%, generating an additional \$280,000 in revenue without significant added expenses. This was one of the most successful terms in recent history, and validated ScanLabMR's role as an ROI-positive initiative.

Enhanced clinical relationships and job placement

The improved confidence and preparedness of our students have strengthened relationships with clinical sites. Coordinating clinical placement used to be a burden for Professor Quinto, who oversees placements across 60–72 clinical sites. Now, our students are making an immediate impact, and sites are looking at our students on a different level, both for training and employment.

Sustained institutional growth

With higher job placement rates and growing employer interest, the program has been able to expand student cohorts and strengthen its market position in MRI training. These outcomes reinforce the institution's long-term competitive advantage.

Study Snapshot

Challenge

Casa Loma College was challenged with providing high-quality MRI education to prepare students for ARMRIT and ARRT exams. However, under the traditional education model, which begins with foundational didactic learning followed by in-person training at externships, students struggled to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

As a result, students were often required to wait 4-13 weeks (during a 30-week externship) before touching a scanner. This impacted student confidence and success and led to a substantial loss of productivity at clinical sites.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem even further, requiring an alternative method to provide hands-on scanning experience remotely.

Solution

Casa Loma College adopted ScanLabMR, a virtual MRI simulator, along with ImagingU, its didactic counterpart.

The hybrid learning model, which combines didactic instruction and experiential learning, provides students with access to a hands-on virtual environment for MRI scanning prior to clinical placement and graded assessments to track progress and competency development.

Unlike other simulators, ScanLabMR offered a more dynamic learning experience. Instructors projected live scans during lectures, while students worked with diverse patient profiles, reinforcing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Results

The integration of ScanLabMR and ImagingU led to measurable improvements:

- 3× increase in class size
- 7% increase in graduation rate (from 54% to 61%)
- \$280,000 in additional revenue with no significant added expenses

Students reached competency milestones faster, with 75% mastering 10-25 competencies within their first 500 hours and beginning clinical scanning 60% earlier than before. The improved preparedness also strengthened relationships with clinical sites, leading to a 12% increase in job placement rates.

Conclusion

How Educators Can Revolutionize MRI Training and Boost Program Success

Casa Loma College's integration of ScanLabMR exemplifies how virtual training software is reshaping MRI technologist education. This technology-driven approach not only enhances student competency but also redefines institutional success—accelerating clinical readiness, improving graduation and job placement rates, and driving sustainable growth.

With students beginning clinical scanning 60% earlier, graduation rates increasing by 7%, and job placements rising by 12%, all while class sizes tripled and revenue grew by \$280,000 without added costs, the impact is undeniable. This underscores the power of immersive learning to produce more skilled, confident, and market-ready technologists. Other MRI programs can look to Casa Loma's formula for success when deploying new training technology for the next generation of healthcare professionals.





ScanLab

