

Introduction

Healthcare professionals gather information, recognize physiological imbalances, and explain body functions to patients. In this assignment, you will use ChatGPT as a simulated patient while you play the role of a healthcare provider. You can adjust the topic to your major.

You will guide the conversation by asking questions, gathering history, interpreting the patient's symptoms using your anatomy and physiology knowledge, and explaining the physiological processes.

This assignment is designed to strengthen your understanding of anatomy and physiology—not to practice diagnosing medical conditions as you would in a traditional case study.

Learning Objectives

- Apply anatomy and physiology concepts to a patient scenario.
- Conduct a patient interview.
- Identify relevant body systems based on symptoms.
- Explain normal and abnormal physiological processes using appropriate terminology.

Instructions

Step 1: Assign ChatGPT a Role

Start your conversation with this prompt:

You are my patient in a simulated anatomy and physiology learning exercise. Answer only the questions I ask as a real patient would. Do not tell me your diagnosis or explain the physiology.

Step 2: Choose a Body System

Step 3: Build Your Patient

Tell ChatGPT to create a patient who has symptoms involving your selected body system.

Step 4: Conduct the Interview

Ask enough questions to understand:

- Chief complaint
- Relevant medical history
- Medications
- Lifestyle factors
- Family history (if appropriate)
- Symptoms
- Duration
- Severity
- Factors that improve or worsen symptoms

Keep asking follow-up questions until you think you understand which anatomical structures and physiological processes are involved.

Include **at least 15 questions**.

Step 5: Explain the Anatomy & Physiology

After completing the interview, explain to your patient:

- Which body system is primarily involved
- Which organs or structures are involved
- What normal physiology should occur
- What physiological process may be altered based on the symptoms
- Why the symptoms make physiological sense

Focus on explaining the anatomy and physiology underlying the patient's symptoms. Your explanation should be understandable to someone without a medical background while still demonstrating what you know.

Step 6: Reflection

Write a 300-500 word reflection addressing the following:

1. What information was most useful during your patient interview?
2. Which questions helped you narrow your understanding of the affected body system?
3. What did ChatGPT do well as a simulated patient?
4. What limitations did you notice?
5. If you repeated this exercise, what would you do different?

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Points
Patient interview includes thoughtful questions (15 minimum)	25
Appropriate use of anatomy terminology	20
Accurate explanation of physiological processes	25
Communication appropriate for a patient	10
Reflection demonstrates critical thinking	15
Organization, grammar, professionalism	5
Total	100

Reflection

Designing this assignment with ChatGPT in mind shifted my focus from creating a traditional question-and-answer exercise to developing a learning experience that utilizes communication and applying concepts learned in class. I wanted students to play the role of a healthcare provider and gather information from a simulated patient. ChatGPT made it possible to create a patient interaction where the conversation evolves based on the student's questions. This approach encourages students to think critically about which questions to ask, how symptoms relate to body systems, and how to explain complex physiological concepts in language that a patient can understand. One of the biggest advantages in using ChatGPT is the ability to provide every student with an individualized, interactive patient encounter. Unlike case studies, ChatGPT can respond differently depending on the student's questions. I intentionally designed the assignment to focus on anatomy and physiology concepts instead of diagnosing or treatment.

I think using ChatGPT in this assignment will increase student engagement because it is an active conversation. Instead of reading a prepared case study, students decide what questions to ask, interpret the patient's responses, and determine which anatomical structures and physiological processes are involved. This process requires critical thinking skills. Students are not rewarded for getting the "right answer"; instead, they are graded on the quality of their questioning, and their ability to connect symptoms with physiological processes. A lot of students struggle to connect knowledge with real-world situations. AI patient simulations can help bridge that gap. While AI should never replace lab experiences, it can serve as a valuable supplement that builds confidence before students encounter actual patients.