**Conceptual Framework**

Kolb’s Theory of Experiential Learning provides a foundation that supports the development of knowledge through simulated experiences. This theory can be used as a guide for simulation-based education. Kolb (1984) describes learning as “the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience” (p. 38). The process of learning is described by Kolb as one that begins with the learner having an experience (1984). The learner is said to make the experience meaningful through reflection of the event. Through reflection, the learner is able to determine the “meaning” which is then conceptualized and incorporated into the learners existing cognitive frameworks. With successive experiences, this knowledge is applied to the situation, reflected upon, conceptualized, and then incorporated once again into the individual’s knowledge base. It is said that learners benefit “through the experience by doing and from the experience by reflection” (Waldner & Olson, 2007, p. 13). Therefore, transformation from novice to expert occurs when experience is incorporated into knowledge patterns through the process of active reflection and conceptualization of the experience.