

DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL NURSE & HEALTH CARE AIDE

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

NP1280 (VA2): Communications in Nursing – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Jaclyn Hayward	PHONE:	780-835-6620
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OFFICE HOURS:	By Appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the role of communication in professional nursing. Incorporates oral communication, therapeutic communication techniques, and interprofessional communication. Focus is on communication for the nurse-client relationship.

PREREQUISITE(S): English 30-2 or equivalent

COREQUISITE(S): NP1205, NP1250, NP1500

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style*

Meadus, R. J. (2023). *Communication for Nursing and Health Care Professionals*. Canadian Scholars

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-person – Lecture & Seminar

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Describe the steps of the communication process and their relevance to nursing practice.
2. Explain the purpose and benefits of therapeutic communication in fostering patient-centered care.
3. Analyze the role of communication in building trust and promoting compassion in nursing practice.
4. Demonstrate therapeutic communication skills to establish and maintain effective nurse-client relationships.
5. Apply effective interprofessional communication techniques to support teamwork and collaboration.
6. Practice and evaluate various therapeutic communication techniques.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date & Time	Related Learning Outcome
Letter to Yourself	5%	Sept 11, 2025 – in-class	3, 6
APA Assignment – Scholarly Paper	15%	Nov 12, 2025 @ 2100	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Knowledge Checks (5 Quizzes)	10% (2% each)	Sept 27, Oct 11, 25, Nov 8, 29, 2025 All out of class checks due at 2100	1, 2
Reflective Journal x 2	15% (7.5% each)	Journal 1: October 1, 2025 @ 2100 Journal 2: Nov 1 @ 2100	1, 3, 5
Group Project – Case Study	20%	Dec 1 & 4, 2025 – In-class	3, 4, 5, 6

Professionalism & Participation	5%	Last day of Class will be fully marked.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Final Exam	30%	Week 15 – To be determined	1, 2, 3, 5

*All Evaluations must be completed to be successful in this course

1. Letter to Yourself

- Students will write a reflective letter addressed to themselves as a soon-to-be graduate and nurse. The assignment encourages self-assessment, goal-setting, and reflection on personal values, passions, and challenges encountered during the nursing program. Students will explore their current experiences, envision their future professional selves, and acknowledge their support systems, offering words of encouragement and motivation for their future practice. This assignment promotes self-awareness, professional identity development, and long-term career reflection

2. APA Assignment – Scholarly Paper

- This assignment requires you to write a 5–7 page APA scholarly paper on the importance of communication in nursing practice. You will address six learning outcomes, including the communication process, therapeutic communication, trust and compassion, nurse-client relationships, interprofessional teamwork, and evaluation of communication techniques. Your paper must include your course textbook and at least two additional peer-reviewed sources. Strong examples and clear connections to nursing practice are expected throughout. The paper will be graded on content, application, writing quality, APA formatting, and mechanics.

3. Knowledge Checks (Online Quizzes)

- Knowledge checks will be completed throughout the course to support your learning and reinforce key concepts. These short reviews will cover a variety of topics and may include question formats such as multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and select-all-that-apply. Knowledge checks may be assigned either during class time or outside of class, at the discretion of the instructor, and may be given on short notice. You are permitted to use your textbook as a resource. To ensure fairness and encourage independent learning, knowledge checks will be delivered in the *Quizzes* section of the course platform with a set time limit

4. Reflective Journals

- You will complete two reflective journals (2–3 pages each) that explore your learning about communication in nursing. In Journal 1, you'll reflect on communicating with patients, focusing on therapeutic communication, trust, and compassion. In Journal 2, you'll reflect on communicating with healthcare team members, focusing on

collaboration, teamwork, and evaluating communication techniques. Both journals should connect to the course learning outcomes and include real examples from class, practice, or personal experience. Your grade will be based on the depth of reflection, connection to nursing practice, organization, writing quality, and APA format.

5. Group Project

- The primary objective of this group assignment is to explore and deepen understanding of nurse-client relationships, identify challenges in therapeutic communication, and develop effective strategies to improve communication in nursing practice.
- Groups will be provided with a case study illustrating a challenging nurse interaction. Analyze the case study to identify communication barriers and challenges. Consider cultural, emotional, and environmental factors that may impact communication.
- The group will present their case study to the class for further discussion.
- Prepare a 15-20 minute presentation to share your findings with the class. Use visual aids, role-playing, or other interactive elements to engage the audience.
- Address the following:
 - i. Key components of effective nurse-client relationships.
 - ii. Challenges in therapeutic communication highlighted in the case study.
 - iii. Strategies to overcome communication barriers in healthcare settings.
- After each presentation, facilitate a 10-minute group discussion to allow classmates to ask questions and provide feedback

6. Professionalism & Participation

- Students will receive marks based on attendance, active participation, collaboration, preparation, respect and attitude and timeliness based on a rubric.

7. Final Exam

- The final exam is cumulative and includes all content covered throughout the course. Question format may include a variety of styles including, but not limited to multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply. The final exam will be scheduled through the registrar's office.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage. The minimum passing grade is 60%.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to Communications	Chapter 1
2	Therapeutic Communication	Chapter 2
3	The Nurse-Client Relationship	Chapter 3
4	Cultural Safety: Communication with Clients from Diverse Cultures	Chapter 4
5	Delegation & Documentation	Chapter 5
6	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anxiety	Chapter 6
7	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anger & Aggression	Chapter 7
8	Communication with Clients Experiencing Communication Difficulty	Chapter 8
9	Communication with Clients Experiencing Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 9
10	Communication with Clients Experiencing Loss, Grief, Dying, and Death	Chapter 10
11	FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES	
12	Communication with Health Care Teams and Other Health Care Professionals	Chapter 11
13	Communication with Children and Adolescents	Chapter 12
14	Group Presentation	
15	Final Exam Week – Date to be determined	

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information in this Course Outline and the PN student handbook and to clarify any areas of concern with the instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with NWP Policies. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the policies that might impact you while you are here:

- Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide Handbook: [Practical Nurse Handbook](#)

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments and examinations must be completed. Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty.

If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to **48 hours prior** to the assignment due date and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered.

Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment.

If the late penalty places the grade below the necessary pass grade, students will be unsuccessful in the course. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.

TURNITIN

As part of NWP's commitment to academic integrity, all written assignments submitted by students will be reviewed using Turnitin software, an online plagiarism detection tool, to verify originality and ensure academic integrity. Turnitin compares student work to a vast database of academic sources, publications, and previously submitted assignments to identify potential instances of plagiarism or improper citation(s). By enrolling in this course, students acknowledge and consent to the use of Turnitin for assignment submissions.