

Department of Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide

COURSE OUTLINE –Winter 2025

NP1280: Communications in Nursing 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours in 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:	Rebecca Groenen	PHONE:	780-539-2827
OFFICE:	HEC 356	E-MAIL:	rgroenen@nwpolytech.ca

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. Available only to Practical Nursing students.

PREREQUISITE(S): English 30-2 or equivalent

COREQUISITE(S): Concurrently enrolled in: NP1205, NP1250, NP1500

REQUIRED TEXT:

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

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

RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators [CCPNR] (2019). Entry-level competencies for licensed practical nurses. Author. Retrieved from <https://www.clpna.com/lpn-knowledge-hub/ccpnr-entry-level-competencies-for-lpns>

DELIVERY MODE(S): In person- Lecture.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of NP1280 learners will be able to:

1. Explain the communication process
2. Identify the purpose of therapeutic communication
3. Discuss the role of communication in a caring nursing practice
4. Develop skills for therapeutic communication for the nurse-client relationship
5. Develop skills for effective interprofessional communication
6. Demonstrate 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:

ASSIGNMENTS	TOTAL WEIGHT IN %	RELATED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Reflective Journal Entry	15%	1,2,3
Scholarly Paper	25%	2,3,4
Group Presentation	20%	4,5,6
Professionalism and Participation	10%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Final	30%	1,2,3,4,5,6

***ALL EVALUATION COMPONENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE**

1. Reflective Journal Entry

This journal entry aims to have students understand and reflect on the significance of effective communication in nursing practice. Journal questions will be provided. Students are expected to respond in journal like format. APA not required. Due date and Rubric to be posted on D2L.

2. Scholarly Paper: Compromised Communication

This paper aims to identify, navigate and effectively communicate with a compromised client. Students will be able to choose a topic from a list provided to complete their research. APA formatting required. Topics, due date and rubric to be posted on D2L.

3. Group Presentation

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. Case studies will be provided. Groups will be required to complete a 15 minute presentation on their findings during class time. Due date and Rubric to be posted on D2L.

4. Professionalism & Participation

Students will receive marks based on a rubric. Attendance, active participation, collaboration, preparation, respect, attitude and timeliness will be evaluated. Rubric to be posted on D2L.

5. 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.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unless otherwise specified, all chapter readings will come from the required text.

WEEK	TOPIC	RESOURCES/READINGS
1	Introduction to Communication	Chapt.1
2	Therapeutic Communication	Chapt.2
3	The Nurse-Client Relationship	Chapt.3
4	Cultural Safety: Communication with Clients from Diverse Cultures	Chapt.4
5	Delegation and Documentation	Chapt.5
6	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anxiety	Chapt.6
7	NO CLASSES: READING WEEK	
8	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anger and Aggression	Chapt.7
9	Communication with Clients Experiencing Communication Difficulty	Chapt.8
10	Communication with Clients Experiencing Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapt. 9

11	Communication with Clients experiencing Loss, Grief, Dying and Death	Chapt.10
12	Communication with Health Care Teams and other Health Care Professionals	Chapt.11
13	Communication with Children and Adolescents	Chapt. 12
14	Group Presentations	
15	Final Exam Week	

*Subject to change

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information contained 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:

- NWP Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide, [PN Student Handbook](#)
- NWP Policies: <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/>

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 at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Using Turnitin Software

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.

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