

Department of Practical Nurses & Health Care Aide

COURSE OUTLINE- Winter 2026

NP 1280 (A3): Communications in Nursing – 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:	Kimberly Bedard	PHONE:	
OFFICE:	HEC 353	E-MAIL:	KBedard@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.

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, students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars in person

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of NP1280 learners will be able to

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.transferralberta.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:

The final grade is based on the following assessments: there are no additional assignments or marks provided in the course. All evaluation components must be completed to pass the course.

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Understanding and Correcting APA Formatting Errors	January 28, 2026	25%
Letter to Yourself	March 27, 2026 @1159PM	20%
Midterm Exam	February 11, 2026	25%
Final Exam	Scheduled by the Registrar's Office	30%

1. Understanding and Correcting APA Formatting Errors

Students will be provided with a sample paper that contains multiple intentional errors in APA formatting. Students are required to review documents, identify errors and make the appropriate corrections for Current APA guidelines. Corrections must include proper formatting, in text citations, references, title page and overall structure. Students should submit a corrected version of paper for marking. Rubric will be posted on D2L.

2. Letter to Yourself

Students will write a reflective letter to yourself as a future nurse. This assignment should describe:

- Why you chose nursing and what you are passionate about
- What kind of nurse do you want to become
- Goals for nursing school and as a future nurse
- What are your biggest challenges
- How well do you communicate now and how can you improve

This is a personal reflection, but should be written in a professional manner and in APA formatting. Rubric posted on D2L.

3. Midterm

The midterm will include content covered in Chapters 1-5. 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

4. 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.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to Communications	Chapter 1
2	Therapeutic Communication	Chapter 2
3	The Client Nurse Relationship	Chapter 3
4	Cultural Safety: Communication with Clients from Diverse Cultures Understanding and Correcting APA Formatting Errors Assignment – In class	Chapter 4
5	Delegation and Documentation	Chapter 5
6	Midterm Exam	
7	Winter Break	
8	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anxiety	Chapter 6
9	Communication with Clients Experiencing Anger and Aggression	Chapter 7
10	Communication with Clients Experiencing Communication Difficulty	Chapter 8
11	Communication with Clients Experiencing Neurocognitive Disorders	Chapter 9
12	Communication with Clients Experiencing Loss, Grief, Dying and Death	Chapter 10
13	Communication with Health Care Teams and Other Health Care Professionals	Chapter 11
14	Communication with Children and Adolescents	Chapter 12
15	Final Exam	Scheduled by the Registrar's Office

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: 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 evaluations methods 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 DISCLOSURE:

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.