# COURSE OUTLINE: DSS307 - AUG. COMMUNICATION

Prepared: Miranda Ableson
Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

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| **Course Code: Title** | DSS307: AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION |
| **Program Number: Name** | 3070: PER/DEV SUPPORT SERV |
| **Department:** | PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER |
| **Academic Year:** | 2025-2026 |
| **Course Description:** | This course will introduce students to the field of communication and specifically augmentative communication. Students will learn how to: understand, analyze, synthesize and evaluate variables which affect the individuals who communicate using complex methods or assistive technology. |
| **Total Credits:** | 2 |
| **Hours/Week:** | 2 |
| **Total Hours:** | 28 |
| **Prerequisites:** | DSS300, DSS301, DSS302, DSS303, DSS304 |
| **Corequisites:** | There are no co-requisites for this course. |
| **Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:**<br><br>**Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.** | **3070 - PER/DEV SUPPORT SERV**<br>VLO 2   Conduct oneself in an ethical, competent and accountable manner in all professional relationships.<br>VLO 3   Provide person-directed and centred support that is sensitive to diverse values, cultures, beliefs and needs to promote client self-motivation and self-integration while maintaining privacy and confidentiality. |
| **Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:** | EES 1   Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.<br>EES 2   Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.<br>EES 4   Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.<br>EES 5   Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.<br>EES 6   Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.<br>EES 7   Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.<br>EES 8   Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.<br>EES 9   Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.<br>EES 11   Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences. |
| **Course Evaluation:** | Passing Grade: 50%, D |

| | A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation. |
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| **Books and Required Resources:** | Developmental Disabilities in Ontario by Brown<br>Publisher: Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities Edition: 4th<br>ISBN: 9781777163709<br><br>Technological device (iPad, iPhone, Laptop, Android, etc.) |

**Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:**

| Course Outcome 1 | Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1 |
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| Understand the characteristics of persons with complex communication needs | 1.1 Describe communication and the basic components of communication including social skills, receptive and expressive language, speech production and literacy skills.<br>1.2 Describe the communication characteristics of persons who have complex communication needs including autism, intellectual, physical or multiple disabilities<br>1.3 Understand the impact of developmental and acquired disabilities on functional communication across a variety of contexts<br>1.4 Recognize populations for whom augmentative communication may be of benefit |

| Course Outcome 2 | Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2 |
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| Develop a knowledge of evidence-based strategies for promoting communication skills | 2.1 Understand and use communication programs and strategies for persons with complex communication needs and developmental disability that reflect evidence-based instructional strategies<br>2.2 Demonstrate understanding of implementation of functional communication within natural routines across settings, team members, and communication partners |

| Course Outcome 3 | Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3 |
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| Demonstrate awareness of high-tech, mid-tech, low-tech, and no-tech augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) options | 3.1 Describe the relationship between AAC, language, and communication<br>3.2 Describe features of augmentative and AAC devices/systems<br>3.3 Explore, evaluate, and use assistive technology resources including applications, tools, educational software |

| Course Outcome 4 | Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4 |
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| Define self-advocacy and discuss its relevance to augmentative communication | 4.1 Describe roles of communication for an individual`s growth and participation<br>4.2 Reflect on the unique nature of an individual`s situation and abilities |

**Evaluation Process and Grading System:**

| Evaluation Type | Evaluation Weight |
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| Assignment | 10% |
| Participation in Class Discussions | 15% |
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| | Presentation | 20% |
| | Quiz | 15% |
| | Quiz (Final) | 20% |
| | Reflections (4 at 5%) | 20% |

**Date:** December 12, 2025

**Addendum:** Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.