



COURSE OUTLINE: OPA218 - INTERPERS. REHAB II

Prepared: Andrea Sicoli

Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

Course Code: Title	OPA218: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION IN REHAB II
Program Number: Name	3022: OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST
Department:	OTA/PTA ASSISTANT
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course offers students opportunities to develop essential interpersonal skills needed to be an effective member of a collaborative health care team. Students will learn to integrate and apply valuable concepts from Interpersonal Communication in Rehabilitation I. Emphasis will be placed on respecting diversity, fostering inclusion, and understanding the significance of cultural competence. Students will apply effective communication strategies for engaging with clients who have disabilities, along with techniques for managing conflict during challenging interactions with both clients and colleagues. Skills vital for successful individual and group interactions with clients will be explored, including leadership and advocacy skills. Through role-playing, reflective learning activities, and interactions during concurrent fieldwork placements, students will have opportunities to improve their confidence and skills in interpersonal communication in rehabilitation.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	OPA117, OPA131
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	OPA200
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	3022 - OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Communicate appropriately and effectively, through verbal, nonverbal, written and electronic means, with clients, their significant others, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and members of the interdisciplinary health care team and others.
	VLO 2 Participate in the effective functioning of interdisciplinary health care teams to optimize client physical and occupational functions.
	VLO 3 Establish, develop, maintain, and conclude client-centred, therapeutic relationships.
	VLO 4 Promote a safe environment that prevents or minimizes potential physical or mental harm to the client, therapist assistant and others.
	VLO 5 Practice in a legal, ethical, and professional manner within the role of a therapist assistant.
	VLO 7 Engage in reflective practice and ongoing professional development activities to maintain and enhance competence.
	VLO 8 Perform the roles and responsibilities of the therapist assistant effectively through the application of relevant knowledge of health sciences, psychosocial sciences,



	health conditions, resource management, and clinical procedures.								
	VLO 9 Contribute to the occupational therapist's or physiotherapist's assessment of the client and the development, implementation and modification of intervention/treatment plans.								
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>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.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p> <p>EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.</p> <p>EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.</p> <p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p> <p>EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.</p>								
Course Evaluation:	<p>Passing Grade: 60%, C</p> <p>A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>								
Books and Required Resources:	OER provided by Professor								
Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Develop assertive and responsible interpersonal communication skills necessary when interacting with the inter-professional health care team and clients.</td> <td> 1.1 Review the importance self-awareness and the influence that one`s behaviour and interpersonal communication have on the therapeutic relationship. 1.2 Recall principles of appropriate and effective communication and interpersonal relationships. 1.3 Discuss and demonstrate assertive and responsible communication involving, distressed clients and colleagues, aggressive clients and colleagues, difficult clients, unpopular clients, dying clients and their family. 1.4 Explore issues of sexuality and disability. 1.5 Employ and adapt a variety of communication strategies and interpersonal techniques to meet the needs of clients. 1.6 Demonstrate the ability to be aware of and manage conflict with client`s and colleagues. 1.7 Understand the importance of collaboration as a member of the health care team </td> </tr> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 2</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Develop assertive and responsible interpersonal communication skills necessary when interacting with the inter-professional health care team and clients.	1.1 Review the importance self-awareness and the influence that one`s behaviour and interpersonal communication have on the therapeutic relationship. 1.2 Recall principles of appropriate and effective communication and interpersonal relationships. 1.3 Discuss and demonstrate assertive and responsible communication involving, distressed clients and colleagues, aggressive clients and colleagues, difficult clients, unpopular clients, dying clients and their family. 1.4 Explore issues of sexuality and disability. 1.5 Employ and adapt a variety of communication strategies and interpersonal techniques to meet the needs of clients. 1.6 Demonstrate the ability to be aware of and manage conflict with client`s and colleagues. 1.7 Understand the importance of collaboration as a member of the health care team	Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2		
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	2. Demonstrate therapeutic communication that supports client health and well-being.	2.1 Recall the importance of demonstrating therapeutic qualities. 2.2 Employ a client-centered approach that appreciates the uniqueness of the individual and adapt therapeutic communication according the client`s disability and needs. 2.3 Recognize the importance of culture and demonstrate cultural sensitivity during interpersonal skills. 2.4 Discuss and demonstrate empathetic communication and recognize the importance of building rapport with clients. 2.5 Demonstrate active listening, empathy and effective communication during interviewing. 2.6 Demonstrate the ability to respond to client`s questions and concerns and ensure effective listening skills.
	Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
	3. Demonstrate professional and effective interpersonal communication skills and a comprehension of group dynamics within group settings.	3.1 Apply knowledge of group dynamics, effective participation and interpersonal communication to the development and functioning of teams. 3.2 List the characteristics and responsibilities of a successful group leader. 3.3 Discuss and understand group process and practices of specific groups including groups for children, adolescents, adults and elderly. 3.4 Motivate clients and groups by using appropriate techniques.
	Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
	4. Demonstrate ongoing self-assessment and self-care to promote awareness and enhance professional competence.	4.1 Discuss multimodal learning and how the OTA&PTA must adapt their teaching style to accommodate and promote optimal learning when working with clients. 4.2 Demonstrate ability to seek out, select and act upon constructive feedback to improve performance. 4.3 Demonstrate the ability to appropriately and effectively give constructive feedback. 4.4 Recognize importance of effective interpersonal skills and collaboration in the supervisory process-during fieldwork placements and upon working in the profession of OTA&PTA. 4.5 Apply self-directed learning strategies, resources and opportunities to promote awareness and enhance professional competence.
	Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
	5. Develop knowledge of leadership styles and advocacy practices.	5.1 Explain and demonstrated qualities to enhance leadership skills. 5.2 Recognize the characteristics and responsibilities of a successful group leader and explore individual attitudes and abilities related to leadership. 5.3 Define advocacy and recognize the roles and responsibilities of Advocates and Advocacy Organizations.

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight

	1. Weekly Learning Activities	25%
	2. Assignments	35%
	4. Tests/Exams	40%

Date: August 13, 2025

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