



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Name: Communications 1

Course Number: OPTA 1135

Number of Credits: 3

Effective Date: September 2018

Course Description:

This course provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills required to communicate effectively as an Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapy Assistant. An experiential and self-reflective approach is used to develop self-awareness, confidence and the communication skills required to communicate effectively with a diverse client population, their caregivers, and other members of the health care team.

School or Centre:

School of Health Sciences

Year of Study:

1st Year Post-secondary

Course History:

Replacement Course

Name of Replacing Course (if applicable):

Communications 1 OPTA 1117

Course Pre-requisites (if applicable):

Course Co-requisites (if applicable):

Semester 1 courses: OPTA 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134 and 1136

PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition)

No Yes (details below):

Instructional Strategies:

Instructional strategies may include: Lecture, seminar, on-line learning, assignments, problem-based learning, videos, small group discussions, and student-led review sessions. Role rehearsals, recordings, reflective practice and in-class presentations will also be included.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental elements involved in the communication process.
2. Develop self-awareness and understanding of self-concept.
3. Use strategies to effectively communicate with others, including clients, caregivers, family members, and colleagues
4. Discuss strategies to manage conflict in the workplace
5. Demonstrate professional behaviours when communicating with others.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this program students will be able to:

1. Practise as an Occupational Therapist Assistant or Physical Therapist Assistant in a competent, professional, accountable and ethical manner.
2. Utilize evidence-informed rehabilitation knowledge to perform skills and implement assigned Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy interventions.
3. Collaborate as a member of an interdisciplinary team within an evolving health care system.
4. Contribute to the development and maintenance of an effective practice environment through direct client care, organization and support of rehabilitation services.
5. Identify and report relevant information regarding the client's status and well-being to the appropriate interdisciplinary team member.
6. Communicate appropriately and effectively, through verbal, nonverbal, written and electronic means, with clients, their families and other interdisciplinary team members.
7. Collect client information and complete client records.
8. Develop and implement strategies to promote professional competence within the role of the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant.
9. Promote, support and encourage health and wellness for self and others.

Evaluation/Grading System

Grading System	Specify if 'Other':	Specify Passing Grade:
Letter Grades		70% or C- in both written and practical components of course

Components and Weighting of the Assessment/Evaluation Plan:

Type	Percentage	Evaluation Plan (provide a brief explanation for each component especially if value exceeds 35%):
Assignments	60	X 3 as per rubrics
Quizzes/Tests	10	X 1
Clinical Examination	25	X 1 practical assessment
Participation	5	as per rubric
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Total		100

Learning Environment/Type

Instruction Type	Hours Per Instruction Type	Comments
L - Classroom	40	
B - Lab (Computer, Chemistry...)	20	
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Total		60

Resource Material(s):

Resources are items in addition to tuition that the student is responsible for purchasing. Course resource information will be supplied by the department/instructor.

Course Topics:

1. Barriers to effective communication
2. Self-awareness
3. Active Listening
4. Clarifying
5. Empathy
6. Assertiveness
7. Giving and receiving feedback
8. Cross cultural communication
9. Caring and respect
10. Conflict management
11. Professional behaviour

VCC Education and Education Support Policies

There are a number of **Education** and **Education Support** policies that govern your educational experience at VCC, please familiarize yourself with them.

The policies are located on the VCC web site at:

<http://www.vcc.ca/about/governance--policies/policies/>

To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at www.bctransferguide.ca.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved by Curriculum Committee:	August 15, 2017	Approved by Education Council:	October 10, 2017
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