

# COMM 1008

## COMMUNICATION IN HEALTH

### (WSTC)

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 700062

**Coordinator** Dane Couter ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane Couter/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane%20Couter/))

**Description** Communication is integral to professional relationships, whether working individually with a client, educating community members on health matters, or working with other professionals as part of a multidisciplinary team. This subject aims to develop communication skills in preparation for work within the health professions across these areas. Communication skills will include those needed to form therapeutic relationships with individual clients and groups, as well as those required to communicate health information to clients, groups and the wider community. Students will develop skills to establish appropriate working relationships with professional colleagues.

**School** Health Sciences

**Discipline** Verbal Communication

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 1 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** COMM 1007 - Communication in Health LGYA 7034 - Communication for the Helping Professions COMM 1043 - CommsHealth(UGCert)

#### Restrictions

Students must be enrolled at Western Sydney University, The College. Students enrolled in Extended Diplomas must pass 40 credit points from the preparatory subjects listed in the program structure prior to enrolling in this University level subject. Students enrolled in Integrated combined courses must have passed or be enrolled in the preparatory units in their course in order to enrol in this unit.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyse and evaluate the characteristics of health professional relationships with clients, colleagues, and the wider community.
2. Reflect on the impact of personal attitudes, beliefs and values on communication.
3. Apply essential verbal and written communication skills in the interaction with individual clients, patients, significant others, colleagues and other health stakeholders.
4. Analyse and apply strategies to adapt communication processes to meet the varying health literacy or special needs of clients, family and significant others.
5. Employ teamwork skills relevant to working in health care settings.

## Subject Content

- Theoretical frameworks and processes in effective communication
- Skills for effective communication with clients, colleagues and the community
- Self-awareness in professional communication
- The nature of effective helping as a health care professional
- Communicating in teams
- Working with people who have different communication needs
- Professional written and presentation communication skills.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Portfolio	A:200 words B:300 words C:1500 words	45	N	Individual	N
Viva Voce	4 minutes	25	Y	Individual	Y
Presentation	2-3 minutes per person	30	N	Group	N

#### Prescribed Texts

- Henderson, A., (2019) Communication for health care practice. Docklands, Victoria: Oxford University Press.

#### Teaching Periods

## Term 2 (2025)

### Campbelltown

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Dane Couter ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane Couter/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane%20Couter/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=COMM1008\\_25-T2\\_CA\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=COMM1008_25-T2_CA_1#subjects))

## Term 3 (2025)

### Campbelltown

#### On-site

**Subject Contact** Dane Couter ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane Couter/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Dane%20Couter/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=COMM1008\\_25-T3\\_CA\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=COMM1008_25-T3_CA_1#subjects))