

Communication Skills in the Health Professions (Honors Course)

IDH 3931 - Section 26401

Mondays 1:55-2:45 pm

Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Gregg Henderschiedt

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352-273-3850

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact: For course questions, please email me through Canvas

Course Description

Students will learn the basics of communication skills in the health professions. Students will apply the concepts taught in class by practicing with small groups. Although patient communication is emphasized, the course will also cover communication with staff at all levels.

Course Objectives

1. Students will understand and be able to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills of relationship-centered communication in a health care setting.
2. Students will gain the tools necessary to have difficult conversations with both patients and colleagues.
3. Students will develop and appreciate communication nuances across populations and cultures.

Required Textbooks and Software

Communication Rx: Transforming Healthcare Through Relationship-Centered Communication (Chou and Cooley)

McGraw Hill, 2018, ISBN 978-1-260-01974-2

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

This course is a mixture of lectures, practical application of communications, skills, and group presentations. Half of the grade in this course is based on attendance and participation because those two elements are vital to the success of the course. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation.

In order to participate effectively, it is imperative that students prepare well for each class session. This goes beyond simply reading the required chapters for the week. Students should prepare as if they were responsible for leading that day's classroom discussion by taking time to think and reflect on the text and then preparing comments, questions, and notes to share with their peers.

Evaluation of Grades

| Assignment | Percentage of Final Grade |
|---|---------------------------|
| Weekly Attendance | 25% |
| Weekly Participation | 25% |
| Group Lead Class Discussion | 25% |
| Diverse Populations Poster Presentation | 25% |
| Total | 100% |

Grading Policy

| Percent | Grade | Grade Points |
|---------|-------|--------------|
| 93-100 | A | 4.00 |
| 90-92 | A- | 3.67 |
| 86-89 | B+ | 3.33 |
| 83-85 | B | 3.00 |
| 80-82 | B- | 2.67 |
| 76-79 | C+ | 2.33 |
| 73-75 | C | 2.00 |
| 70-72 | C- | 1.67 |
| 66-69 | D+ | 1.33 |
| 63-65 | D | 1.00 |
| 60-62 | D- | 0.67 |
| 0-59 | E | 0.00 |

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Requirements module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Content

| Date | Topic |
|--------|---|
| 12-Jan | Class Intro |
| 26-Jan | Chapters 1 and 2 (Building the Case/Communication and Patient Experience) |
| 2-Feb | Chapter 3 Rapport/Concerns/Shared Agenda |
| 9-Feb | Group Assignment Work Day |
| 16-Feb | Chapter 4 Open Questions/Active Listening |
| 23-Feb | Empathy |
| 2-Mar | Chapter 6 - Challenging Conversations with patients - Group 1 |

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|--------|--|
| 9-Mar | Chapter 8 and 9 Motivational Interviewing and Shared Decision Making |
| 23-Mar | Chapter 10 Feedback - Group 2 |
| 30-Mar | Chapter 12 Team Communication - Group 3 |
| 6-Apr | Chapter 13 Challenging Conversations with Colleagues - Group 4 |
| 13-Apr | Chapter 15 Communicating Across Hierarchy |
| 20-Apr | Chapter 14 Populations - Student Poster Presentations |

Academic Policies and Resources

[UF Syllabus Policy Links - Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)

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Honors Program Contact Information

- Honors Program, Honors Village Building 4 (our new location starting in late fall 2025), 352-392-1519
- Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
- Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/UFHonorsAdvising>
- Honors Program Event Calendar: <https://www.honors.ufl.edu/news--events/calendar-of-events/>

Syllabus is subject to change as needed