

Course Specification Student Version

Course Title:	Communication skills in Medicine
Course Code:	COM 408
Department:	Basic Medical Sciences
Program:	Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
College:	Vision College in Riyadh
Institution:	Vision College in Riyadh
Revised:	July 2025

A. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 4 (2+0+2)
2. Level/year at which this course is offered: Level 8/Year 4
3. Pre-requisites for this course (if any): RES 305, HPS 305, CVS 305, MSS 306, ENS 306, GIS 306, UGS 407, FMT 407, NSC 407
4. Co-requisites for this course (if any): None

B. Teaching Methods

1	Interactive lectures
2	Skill lab clinical sessions

C. Course Description and Objectives

1. Course Description

This course introduces the students to the basic concepts of effective human communication. It focuses on the development of communication skills and the basic components of the communication process. It provides comprehensive coverage of major issues, including organizational conflict, leadership, values, change, diversity, technology, and ethical behavior, offering students the most thorough introduction to the current field of organizational communication. The course will also examine the environmental and behavioral impediments of effective communications.

2. Course Main Objective

The main purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the basic concepts of effective human communication in medical science as a health care professional.

3. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe and explain the basic aspects of common clinical presentations.
- Formulate and prioritize a differential diagnosis using reasoning skills.
- Communicate effectively with patients and their families regardless of their age, gender, social, cultural, religious, or ethnic backgrounds in various situations.
- Demonstrate empathy and compassion to patients.
- Demonstrate the ability to break bad news sensitively and effectively.
- Perform a structured comprehensive history taking.
- Apply moral and ethical principles of medical practice including end-of-life care.
- Obtain informed Consent when applicable.

D. Course Content

No.	List of Topics
1	Introduction to communication (2 Hours)
2	The importance of communication in medicine (2 Hours)
3	The doctor-patient relationship (2 Hours)

4	The communication skills (an overview) (2 Hours)
5	Communication situations & techniques (2 Hours)
6	Communicating with patients (in the consultation framework) (2 Hours)
7	Role-play of the consultation framework(2 Hours)
8	Interaction with patients and shared decision-making (2 Hours)
9	Imparting information to patients (disclosure, patient education, informed consent (6 Hours)
10	Counseling (2 Hours)
11	Understand both verbal and non-verbal communication cues. (2 Hours)
12	Recognize the barriers to communication. (2 Hours)
13	Develop and apply skills for effective listening (2 Hours)
14	highly effective presentation skills(2 Hours)
15	Role-play of interactions with patients (2 Hours)
16	Imparting information to patients (Admitting errors & mistakes "truth-telling")(2 Hours)
17	Breaking of bad news (4 Hours)
18	Roleplay of truth-telling and breaking of bad news (2 Hours)
19	Communicating in writing(2 Hours)
20	Communicating electronically (2 Hours)
21	History taking skill in all systems (Head & Neck, Respiratory, CVS, GIT, CNS, Musculoskeletal, endocrine, vascular system) (32 Hours)

E. Assessment Tools

#	Assessment task	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Midterm Exam	20%
2	Continuous Assessment (Students role play)	20%
3	Final Written Exam	30%
4	OSCE	30%
	Total	100%

F. Learning Resources

Essential References	Polack, Edward P., Virginia P. Richmond, & James C. McCroskey "Applied Communication for Health Professionals" (Hardcover) Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Latest ED.
Supportive References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oxford specialty training clinical medicine history taking for PACES , Gautam M , Latest ED. 2. Nemeth, Christopher P. "Improving Healthcare Team Communication" (Hardcover) Ashgate , Latest ED. 3. Shockley-Zalabak, Pamela S. Allyn& Bacon "Fundamentals of Organizational Communication: Knowledge, Sensitivity, Skills, Values" , Latest ED. 4. Beardsley, Robert S., Carole Kimberlin, & William N Tindall "Communication Skills in Pharmacy Practice: A Practical Guide for Students and Practitioners" (Point (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins)) (Paperback) Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; Fifth Edition edition , Latest ED.
Electronic Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LMS resources 2. http://www.mdanderson.org/education-and-research/resources-for-professionals/professional-educational-resources/i-care/complete-library-of-communication-videos/basic-principles.html 3. http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webcomm/overview.html 4. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module1 5. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module2 6. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module3 7. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module4 8. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module5 9. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module6 10. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module7 11. http://www.uniteforsight.org/health-communication-course/module8
Other Learning Materials	None