

WHAT IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS?

There are many challenges to interpersonal communication. Gender differences, cultural differences, and role identity are just a few. The most common challenge is that, often, we just do not understand each other. Research has shown that in a typical dyad, the two communication partners can correctly interpret and explain only 25% - 50% of the other's behavior. Interpretation plays a role in virtually every human act. Interpretations are influenced by: degree of involvement with the partner; relational satisfaction; past experiences; assumptions about human behavior; assumptions about the other's background or world view; perceptions about the other person (to name just a few). Evidence shows that judgments say more about our own attitudes than about the other person. Our attitudes impact our communication, sometimes preventing us from understanding the other person's communicative intent. In order to be an effective communication partner, each partner must: learn to see our own behaviors and understand how we come across to others; observe with a discerning mind the behavioral styles of others; and adjust as necessary!

In every relationship, adjustments need to be made. If, however, the clinical instructor and/or student clinician feel that there are problems that threaten student learning or jeopardize quality of service, the following steps should be taken:

