

Creating Effective Learning Objectives

Learning objectives should signal what knowledge, ability, or skills you want students to achieve by the end of the course or module.

Guidelines

Learning objectives should:

- Be measurable
- Be specific
- Be observable
- Be attainable
- Use action verbs
- Use one verb at a time

Directions

To write a learning objective, you should:

- Select a specific skill or ability students should learn
- Select a level of cognition (remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, create)
- Select a verb from the level of cognition
- If applicable, add details about how the skill will be acquired

Words to Avoid

Appreciate

Believe

Grow

Improve

Increase

Know

Learn

Understand

Examples

- Classify an aquifer from groundwater modeling software
- Describe the impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Calculate the expected return of an asset using the capital asset pricing model
- List the physiological, cognitive, and social impacts of persistent trauma
- Design a steel composite floor system
- Assess the role that international institutions play in maintaining global security

Bloom's Taxonomy Action Verbs List

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Associate	Add	Arrange	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Classify	Calculate	Breakdown	Assess	Compose
Define	Compute	Change	Categorize	Conclude	Design
Label	Convert	Choose	Classify	Contrast	Develop
List	Defend	Classify	Combine	Critique	Devise
Locate	Demonstrate	Complete	Compare	Compare	Drive
Match	Discuss	Compute	Detect	Defend	Formulate
Memorize	Distinguish	Discover	Diagram	Determine	Generate
Name	Estimate	Divide	Discriminate	Grade	Hypothesize
Omit	Explain	Dramatize	Differentiate	Justify	Integrate
Recite	Express	Examine	Distinguish	Measure	Invent
Select	Extend	Explain	Identify	Rank	Make
Count	Extrapolate	Graph	Illustrate	Rate	Originate
Draw	Generalize	Generalize	Infer	Support	Organize
Outline	Give Examples	Interpolate	Outline	Test	Plan
Point	Illustrate	Judge	Point out		Prescribe
Quote	Indicate	Manipulate	Select		Produce
Recall	Interrelate	Modify	Separate		Propose
Recognize	Interpret	Operate	Subdivide		Reconstruct
Repeat	Infer	Organize	Survey		Revise
Reproduce	Match	Paint			Rewrite
	Paraphrase	Prepare			Transform
	Predict	Produce			
	Represent	Select			
	Restate	Show			
	Rewrite	Sketch			
	Select	Solve			
	Show	Subtract			
	Summarize	Use			
	Tell				
	Translate				