



IFT Knowledge & Learning Center *Writing Learning Objectives*

WRITING PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives are brief, clear, specific and measurable statements of what learners will be able to perform at the conclusion of instructional activities. Generally, learning objectives are competency-based as they designate exactly what learners need to do to demonstrate mastery of course material.

Learning objectives have two parts: an action verb and a content area. Objectives should always include a verb for performing the task that best describes the type of behavior the learners need to display at the conclusion of the course/session.

Learning objectives writing steps:

1. Select a verb for performing the task.
2. Determine if the verb you have chosen best describes the type of behavior that the learners need to display after instruction.
3. Assess under what conditions the task must be performed.
4. Determine to what standards the task must be performed.

Incomplete Objective (lacks action verb, is not measurable):

Learners will know new food ingredients and the technologies used to incorporate them into foods.

Complete Objective:

Learners will be able to recognize new food ingredients and the technologies used to incorporate them into foods from a list of current and new ingredients.

When writing objectives, ask yourself the following:

- Is the objective measurable?
- Does the objective target one specific aspect of expected performance?
- Does the learning objective utilize an effective, action verb that targets the desired level of performance?
- Is the learning objective student-centered?
- Does the learning objective match instructional activities and assessments?

The following list of suggested verbs is from the Illinois Nurses Association's Continuing Education Approver Unit Instruction Manual and is adapted from Reilly, D.E. Behavioral Objectives in Nursing, 2nd Edition. It may be helpful in the development of your objectives. This list is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting.

Knowledge	
Define	Recognize
Describe	Record
Express	Relate
Identify	Repeat
Label	Report
List	Reproduce
Locate	Restate
Match	Select
Name	State
Outline	Tell
Recall	Underline

Comprehension	
Convert	Recognize
Defend	Review
Distinguish	Rewrite
Estimate	Summarize
Extend	Translate
Generalize	
Give example	
Infer	
Interpret	
Paraphrase	
Predict	

Application			
Apply	Illustrate	Produce	Translate
Carry out	Interpret	Relate	Use
Change	Interview	Respond	
Code	Maintain	Retrieve	
Comply	Manipulate	Schedule	
Demonstrate	Modify	Screen	
Discover	Operate	Shop	
Dramatize	Perform	Show	
Employ	Practice	Sketch	
Follow	Predict	Solve	
Follow up	Prepare	Transcribe	