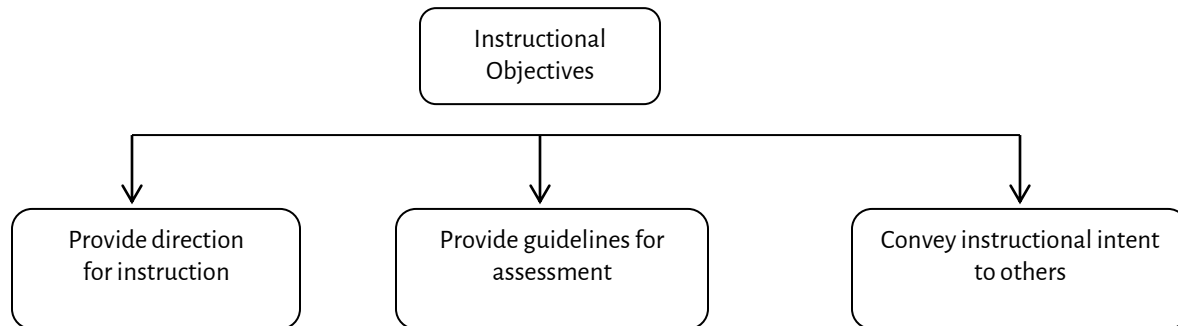


Writing Learning Objectives

Objectives provide a guide for instruction and set the stage for the assessment of learning. They indicate intended learning outcomes in terms of demonstrated learner performance as a result of the activity. The distinction between what the faculty/speaker intends to accomplish during a learning activity and what the learners can exhibit as a result of the learning process is an important one. Well-stated objectives clarify learning expectations in terms of measurable or observable performance.



From: Gronlund: *How to Write and Use Instructional Objective* 1995, Merrill, Prentice Hall, Engelwood, NJ

Objectives should be written for use on promotional materials and evaluations and should be stated: At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to....

When developing objectives, ask this question:

What do you want the participant to know/do as a result of the educational activity?

Examples:

- Evaluate and treat pediatric migraine
- Distinguish Type 1 from Type 2 diabetes in children
- Identify, assess, and manage bullying and victimization
- Analyze the effects of hair loss in children
- Formulate the arguments for use of topical fluoride for children in an impoverished urban area
- Differentiate the workup of chronic cough for children who have not responded to commonly used over the counter preparations
- Estimate the relative effectiveness of using x vs y in management of pediatric tremor

When writing learning objectives, focus on the learner!

VERBS FOR FORMULATING EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The following verbs have been found to be effective in formulating educational objectives:

Those that communicate knowledge:

Information

cite	indicate	recite	state	count	list
recognize	tabulate	define	name	record	tell
describe	point	relate	trace	draw	quote
repeat	write	identify	read		

Comprehension

associate	differentiate	extrapolate	restate	classify	discuss
interpolate	review	compare	distinguish	interpret	translate
compute	estimate	locate	contrast	explain	predict
describe	express	report			

Application

apply	examine	order	review	calculate	illustrate
practice	schedule	complete	interpolate	predict	sketch
demonstrate	interpret	relate	solve	dramatize	locate
report	translate	employ	operate	restate	use utilize

Analysis

analyze	debate	distinguish	inventory	appraise	detect
experiment	question	contract	diagram	infer	separate
criticize	differentiate	inspect	summarize		

Synthesis

arrange	create	integrate	prescribe	assemble	design
manage	produce	collect	detect	organize	propose
compose	formulate	plan	specify	construct	generalize
prepare					

Evaluation

appraise	estimate	measure	revise	assess	evaluate
rank	score	choose	grade	rate	select
compose	judge	recommend	test	construct	generalize
prepare					

Those that impart skills:

diagnose	integrate	measure	percuss	empathize	internalize
palpate	project	hold	massage	pass	visualize

Those that convey attitudes:

acquire	exemplify	realize	reflect		
---------	-----------	---------	---------	--	--

These verbs are better avoided:

appreciate	have	faith in	learn	understand	believe
know					