

## GOAL AND OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS IN YOUR COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Goals:**

Describe and reflect the broad learning outcomes, concepts, and skills as a result of the course, they are expressed in *general* terms. (One year from now, what would you hope the student would say about what he/she took away from your course?)

**Course Objectives:**

Identify specific student performance and behaviors that demonstrate students are achieving the major goals set out for the course. They are brief, clear, precise statements of learning outcomes that flow from the goals. The course objectives statements will be used to develop assignments, course structures, activities, and assessments for the instruction.

## WRITING LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR COURSE AND/OR LESSONS

1. Begin with a verb.
2. State the outcome in terms of student performance.
3. State it as a learning product.
4. State the outcome so that it indicates the standard or performance level.
5. State the outcome at a level of generality that clearly indicates the expected learning outcome and is readily definable by specific types of student behavior

USE VERBS TO DESCRIBE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES:

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Comprehension</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Synthesis</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Define	Classify	Apply	Analyze	Arrange	Appraise
Identify	Describe	Compute	Appraise	Assemble	Assess
Indicate	Discuss	Construct	Calculate	Collect	Choose
Know	Explain	Demonstrate	Categorize	Compose	Compare
Label	Express	Dramatize	Compare	Construct	Contrast
List	Identify	Employ	Contrast	Create	Decide
Memorize	Locate	Give examples	Criticize	Design	Estimate
Name	Paraphrase	Illustrate	Debate	Formulate	Evaluate
Recall	Recognize	Interpret	Determine	Manage	Grade
Record	Report	Investigate	Diagram	Organize	Judge
Relate	Restate	Operate	Differentiate	Perform	Measure
Repeat	Review	Organize	Distinguish	Plan	Rate
Select	Suggest	Practice	Examine	Prepare	Revise
Underline	Summarize	Predict	Experiment	Produce	Score
Recognize	Tell	Schedule	Inspect	Propose	Value
	Translate	Shop	Inventory	Setup	Select
		Sketch	Question		
		Translate	Relate		
		Use	Solve		

## VAGUE VERBS TO AVOID (OPEN TO MANY INTERPRETATIONS AND HARD TO EVALUATE THE OUTCOMES):

To know	To understand	To appreciate	To grasp	To enjoy
To believe	To have faith in	To grasp the significance of	To learn	

ACTION WORD: KEYS TO HIGHER THINKING AND ARTICULATING COURSE  
OUTCOMES

If you want students to do...or assess	Use these key words	Illustration
<b>Recall</b> (Knowledge)	Define, identify, label, repeat, recall, recognize, list, name, what, when, who, reproduce, order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List the names of the main characters in the story.</li> <li>• Define iambic pentameter.</li> <li>• State Newton's Laws of Motions.</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehend</b> (understanding)		
<b>*Translate</b> (translation)	Explain, draw, Give in your own words, illustrate, rearrange, reorder, restate, transfer, translate	
<b>*Interpret</b> (Interpretation)	If/then, compare, contrast, differentiate, distinguish, classify, describe, express, identify, indicate, locate, recognize, summarize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare themes of these two stories.</li> <li>• Summarize the main ideas of...</li> </ul>
<b>Apply/solve</b> (Application)	If—how, develop, employ, relate, restructure, use, what if, apply, if—then, test, solve, illustrate, compose examples of...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I wanted to make a character more believable, how might I do it?</li> <li>• Scan a poem for metric foot and meter scheme.</li> <li>• Describe an experiment to test the influence of light and light quality in the Hill reaction of photosynthesis.</li> </ul>
<b>Analyze</b> (analysis, autonomous reasoning and inquiry)	Deduce, predict, infer compare/contrast, detect, predict, if—then, analyze appraise, categorize, differentiate, discriminate, question, test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and analyze arguments for and against gun control.</li> </ul>
<b>Synthesize</b> (synthesis, creation)	Combine, constitute, derive, document, formulate, modify, organize, originate, produce synthesize, write, make up, what/if, develop, arrange, propose, set-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a new way to conduct this experiment.</li> <li>• Construct a helium-near laser.</li> <li>• Compose a logical argument on assisted suicide with well-selected evidence drawn from a variety of related sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluate/judge</b> (evaluation)	Apprise, argue, assess, decide, evaluate, judge, standardize, evaluate, why, support, rate, defend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate this story. Is it well written? Why? Why not?</li> <li>• Propose defensible stock market investments based on company performance and projected value.</li> </ul>