Guide to Writing Behavioral Objectives

Learning objectives are a major component in educational design. Learning objectives describe what the learner will be able to do as a result of participation in the educational event. Therefore, learning objectives should be written using *action* verbs. Learning objectives should be written in measurable, behavioral terms.

Measurable, behavioral objectives state a learner will perform a defined task or action. Examples of readily measurable, behavioral learning objectives are: (*ϖThe learner will*) "Discuss two contemporary approaches to acute pain management." or "Explain the etiology of latex allergy."

The first step to writing an acceptable behavioral learning objective is to identify action verbs that will describe the desired behavioral outcomes. Verbs like <u>understand</u> and <u>learn</u> are not acceptable action verbs because they do not describe overt behavior that can be observed by others. Some examples of action verbs are noted below under *ϖThe learner will*:

To recall information	To understand and modify information	To apply abstractions and concepts	To understand component elements	To clarify relationships between components	To judge, placing it in context
ϖThe learner will	*ϖThe learner will*	*ϖThe learner will*	*ϖThe learner will*	*ϖThe learner will*	*ϖThe learner will*
Rote	Describe	Draw	Analyze	Deduce	Evaluate
Read	Summarize	Calculate	Determine	Develop	Compare/contrast
Identify	Say in own words	Present	Differentiate	Produce	Make a decision
List	Interpret	Perform	Categorize	Theorize about	Judge the worth
Memorize	Explain	Choose	Infer	Extend	Appraise
Define	Give examples	Use	Breakdown	Combine	Compare
Label	Compile	Operate	Diagram	Relate	Conclude
Discuss	Compose		Distinguish	Summarize	Criticize
			Outline	Infer	Justify
			Subdivide		Support

SR