

Verbs for Formulating Objectives for Learning Outcomes¹

Identifying desired learning outcomes is essential to planning, implementing and evaluating continuing education activities. Focus your statements on attainable change in knowledge, skills and professional practices of the target audience.

1 Verbs to AVOID					
	appreciate	have faith in	know	learn	understand
	believe				
2 Verbs that describe skills					
	demonstrate	hold	massage	pass	visualize
	diagnose	integrate	measure	percuss	write
	diagram	internalize	operate	project	
	empathize	listen	palpate	record	
3 Verbs that convey attitudes					
	acquire	exemplify	plan	reflect	transfer
	consider	modify	realize	revise	
4 Verbs that relate to:					
	Information				
	cite	identify	quote	relate	tabulate
	count	indicate	read	repeat	tell
	define	list	recite	select	trace
	describe	name	recognize	state	update
	draw	point	record	summarize	write
	Comprehension				
	assess	contrast	distinguish	interpolate	restate
	associate	demonstrate	estimate	interpret	review
	classify	describe	explain	locate	translate
	compare	differentiate	express	predict	
	compute	discuss	extrapolate	report	
	Application				
	apply	employ	match	relate	sketch
	calculate	examine	operate	report	solve
	choose	illustrate	order	restate	translate
	complete	interpolate	practice	review	treat
	demonstrate	interpret	predict	schedule	use
	develop	locate	prescribe	select	utilize
	Analysis				
	analyze	criticize	diagram	infer	question
	appraise	debate	differentiate	inspect	separate
	contract	deduce	distinguish	inventory	summarize
	contrast	detect	experiment	measure	
	Synthesis				
	arrange	construct	formulate	organize	produce
	assemble	create	generalize	plan	propose
	collect	design	integrate	prepare	specify
	combine	detect	manage	prescribe	validate
	compose	document			
	Evaluation				
	appraise	critique	evaluate	rank	score
	assess	decide	grade	rate	select
	choose	determine	judge	recommend	test
	compare	estimate	measure	revise	

¹Adapted from: Rosof, AB and Felch, WC, eds. **Continuing Medical Education: A Primer, 2nd Ed.** Westport: Praeger, 1992

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