

VERB LIST FOR WRITING EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Domain

| Remember | | Understand | | Apply | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| arrange | quote | associate | generalize | apply | order |
| cite | read | classify | give example | calculate | practice |
| define | recite | compare | identify | change | predict |
| describe | recognize | compute | indicate infer | choose | prepare |
| draw | record | contrast | interpret | complete | produce |
| duplicate | relate | convert | locate | compute | relate |
| identify | recall | defend | paraphrase | demonstrate | report |
| indicate | repeat | describe | predict | discover | restate |
| label | reproduce | differentiate | report | dramatize | review |
| list | select | discuss | recognize | employ | schedule |
| match | state | distinguish | restate rewrite | examine | show |
| memorize | tabulate | estimate | review | illustrate | sketch |
| name | tell | explain express | select | interpolate | solve |
| point | trace | extend | summarize | interpret | translate |
| order | write | extrapolate | translate | manipulate | use |
| outline | | | | modify | utilize |
| | | | | operate | write |
| Analyze | | Evaluate | | Create | |
| analyze | identify | appraise | judge | arrange | organize |
| appraise | illustrate | argue | justify | assemble | plan |
| breakdown | infer | assess | interpret | categorical | prepare |
| calculate | inspect | attach | measure | collect | prescribe |
| categorize | inventory | choose | rank | combine | produce |
| compare | model | compare | relate | comply | propose |
| contrast | outline | conclude | predict | compose | rearrange |
| criticize | point out | contrast | rate | construct | reconstruct |
| debate | question | critique | recommend | create | relate |
| diagram | relate | defend | review | design | reorganize |
| differentiate | select | describe | revise | detect | revise |
| discriminate | separate | determine | score | develop | rewrite |
| distinguish | subdivide | diagnose | select | devise | set up |
| examine | summarize | discriminate | summarize | explain | specify |
| experiment | test | estimate | support | formulate | summarize |
| | | evaluate | test | generate | synthesize |
| | | explain | value | generalize | tell |
| | | grade | | integrate | write |
| | | | | manage | |

Psychomotor Domain

| Simple | | | | Complex | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|---------|
| add | expel | pipet | shake | build | incise | palpate |
| adjust | filter | place | smear | calibrate | inject | percuss |
| agitate | guide | plot | smell | construct | innoculate | perform |
| aspirate | handle | pour | stain | create | make | produce |
| cleanse | imitate | prepare | start | demonstrate | maintain | remove |
| collect | invert | prick | stop | exercise | manipulate | suture |
| combine | label | puncture | stopper | illustrate | operate | |
| copy | lyse | record | streak | | | |
| dilute | mark | repeat | tilt | | | |
| dispose | measure | rinse | titrate | | | |
| drain | mix | scrape | transfer | | | |
| draw | mount | seal | use | | | |
| duplicate | obtain | select | wash | | | |
| emulsify | pass | set up | wipe | | | |

Affective domain

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| Accept | Initiate | Read |
| Adopt | Investigate | Realize |
| Advocate | Join | Recommend |
| Annotate | Keep (preserve) | Reflect |
| Ask | Obey | Reject |
| Attempt | Object | Seek |
| Attend | Offer | Select |
| Challenge | Organize | Specify |
| Choose | Participate | Share |
| Consult | Persevere | Suggest |
| Delay | Propose | Support |
| Design | Promote | Test |
| Dispute | Qualify | Try |
| Evaluate | Query | Visit |
| Exemplify | Questions | Volunteer |
| | | Weigh (judge) |

VERBS TO BE AVOIDED WHEN WRITING OBJECTIVES

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| appreciate | enjoy | really understand |
| be acquainted with | fully appreciate | realize |
| be aware of | grasp the significance of | remember |
| be familiar with | have faith in | sympathize with |
| believe | know | understand |
| comprehend | learn | |

CHECKLIST QUESTIONS FOR WRITING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Observable** - Does the learning objective identify what students will be able to do after the topic is covered?
- **Measurable** - Is it clear how you would test achievement of the learning objective? Can students reasonably determine from the objective whether or not they have achieved it?
- **Achievable** - Can the objective be realistically accomplished at the end of the class/course?
- **Clear & specific** - Do chosen verbs have a clear meaning?
- **Alignment with expectations** - Is the verb aligned with the level of cognitive understanding expected of students? Could you expect a higher level of understanding?

Source:

- Verbs: Duke University Community and Family Medicine Faculty Development Module
- Checklist Questions: Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative