

Course Goals/Learning Outcomes

When writing goals, think in broad terms about what is to be taught or accomplished from the perspective of the teachers or instructors. Course goals or learning outcomes are broad statements of what the students will be able to do when they have completed a course. Generally these learning outcomes connect to the overall goals of the curriculum for a given discipline. Clarifying these larger ideas and making connections to the curriculum helps students see the purpose and relevance of the course content.

Example [from Block 1]: This course will provide a strong epidemiology and biostatistics foundation to support effective application in clinical practice and interpretation of the scientific literature. [Note how this is framed in terms of what the course will accomplish, not in terms of what learners will be able to accomplish after having completed the course.] Course goals are not learning objectives.

Learning Objectives

Learning objectives describe the behavior expected of students after instruction and are measurable. What would someone be doing when demonstrating mastery of the goal you have written above? Consider the following components: 1) audience, 2) performance or outcome, 3) conditions, 4) criterion.

Audience	The student will be able to....
Behavior/ Performance (b)	What a learner is expected to be able to do. What is the learner doing when

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VERBS FOR USE IN WRITING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose			
Describe	Defend	Dramatize			
Define	Demonstrate	Explain			
Label	Distinguish	Generalize			
List	Explain	Judge			
Locate	Express	Organize			
Match	Extend	Paint			
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare			
Name	Illustrate	Produce			
Omit	Indicate	Select			
Recite	Interrelate	Show			
Select	Interpret				
State	Infer				
Count	Match				
Draw	Paraphrase				
Outline	Represent				
Point	Restate				
Quote	Rewrite				
Recall	Select				
Recognize	Show				
Repeat	Summarize				
Reproduce	Tell				
	Translate				
	Associate				
	Compute				
	Convert				
	Discuss				
	Estimate				
	Extrapolate				
	Generalize				
	Predict				

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