

## Learning Objectives

### WHAT ARE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

*Learning objectives describe what we want our learners to be able to do to demonstrate their competence as a result of participation in a specified course. They are not descriptions of the methods we intend to use to instruct them.*

#### Learning Objectives Benefit Teachers:

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1. Objectives make clear the distinction between “need to know” versus “nice to know” content, when curricular time is at a premium.
2. They also help guide the selection of instructional and assessment formats.
3. When it is time to evaluate the course overall, learning objectives provide a useful metric for determining whether we’ve reached our own targets.

#### Learning Objectives Benefit Learners:

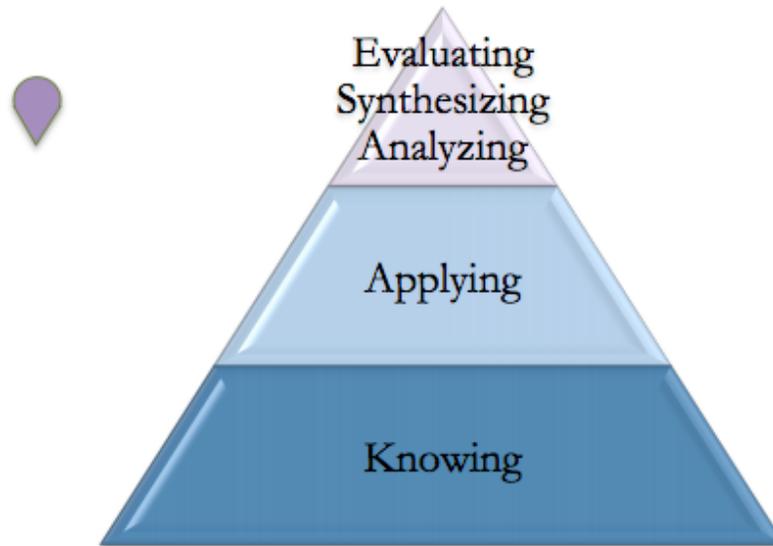
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1. Learning objectives act like signposts—directing student attention to specific information and skills.
2. They offer guidance in organizing what and how students should study.
3. They help establish student expectations about how they will be evaluated.

#### *Three broad domains of learning objectives: Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor:*

1. Cognitive learning objectives describe the knowledge learners need to acquire & be able to apply.
2. Affective learning objectives describe desired changes in learner attitudes.
3. Psychomotor learning objectives set targets for skill development.

*Bloom's Hierarchy of Cognitive Skills: Aim for the Highest Level on the Hierarchy*



### **SMART Learning Objectives:**

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1. Specific: Precisely state what learner should be able to do.
2. Measurable: Can be assessed through testing or observation.
3. Action-oriented: Uses an action verb to describe change or acquisition.
4. Reasonable: Appropriate to time and scope.
5. Time-bound: Specifies a time frame for achievement.

### **Standard Format for Writing Learning Objectives:**

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1. Stating the condition.
2. Specifying the audience.
3. Selecting the appropriate action verb that is both measurable and specific.
4. Specifying criteria for evaluation, when relevant.