

Writing Behavioral Learning Objectives and Assessments

- Learning objectives, or learning outcomes, are statements that clearly describe what the learner will know or be able to do as a result of having attended an educational program or activity.
- Learning objectives must be *observable and measurable*.
- Learning objectives should (1) focus on the learner, and (2) contain action verbs that describe measurable behaviors
- Verbs to consider when writing learning objectives:
 - ✓ list, describe, recite, write
 - ✓ compute, discuss, explain, predict
 - ✓ apply, demonstrate, prepare, use
 - ✓ analyze, design, select, utilize
 - ✓ compile, create, plan, revise
 - ✓ assess, compare, rate, critique
- Verbs to avoid when writing learning objectives
 - know, understand
 - learn, appreciate
 - become aware of, become familiar with
- Example of well-written learning objectives:

This workshop is designed to help you:

 1. Summarize basic hypnosis theory and technique;
 2. Observe demonstrations of hypnotic technique and phenomena;
 3. Recognize differences between acute and chronic pain;
 4. Utilize hypnosis in controlling acute pain;
 5. Apply post-hypnotic suggestions to chronic pain; and
 6. Practice hypnotic technique in dyads.
- Objective learning assessments should be written in a manner that determines whether participants learned what you planned to teach them. The evaluation (or learning assessment) should be based on the stated learning objectives of the program.
- Example of well-written learning assessment: