



**Ada Canyon Medical Education Consortium
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Writing Clear Learning Objectives

A clear learning objective states what the learner will be able to do upon completion of a continuing medical education activity, in terms of behavioral change. A clear objective identifies the terminal behavior or desired outcome of the educational offering.

When writing objectives, follow these three steps:

Step 1

Learning objectives begin with the phrase:

“At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to...”

Step 2

Connect step one with an action verb which communicates the performance by the learner. Use verbs that describe an action that can be observed and that are measurable within the teaching time frame (e.g., via a post-test).

SAMPLE VERBS

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
define	classify	apply	analyze	arrange	assess
identify	compile	calculate	calculate	assemble	compare
label	conclude	demonstrate	categorize	compose	critique
list	discuss	develop	classify	construct	decide
match	describe	interpret	criticize	design	determine
name	explain	locate	compare	develop	establish
recall	express	operate	contrast	diagnose	evaluate
recognize	give examples	perform	determine	manage	judge
record	identify	practice	differentiate	organize	justify
relate	interpret	predict	distinguish	plan	measure
repeat	recognize	present	examine	propose	rate
select	summarize	report	outline	relate	recommend
state	translate	use	test	summarize	select

Step 3

Conclude with the specifics of what the learner will be doing when demonstrating achievement or mastery of the objectives. Stress what the participant will walk away with from the activity.

WORDS TO AVOID

appreciate approach become	believe grasp the significance of grow	improve increase know	learn thinks critically understand
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