

Tips for Writing Behavioral Objectives

Behavioral objectives state what the learner will be able to do at the completion of the learning activity. Objectives guide us in the selection of teaching content and methods and provide a framework for evaluation. Evaluation of a continuing education program is possible only if, at the end of the event, the achievements can be measured against what was identified in the objectives.

Key points when writing behavioral objectives:

- Use verbs that are action oriented and can be observed
- Use only one action verb per objective
- Focus on the learner outcome, not the instructor approach
- Be sure the objective can be measured within the time frame of the continuing education activity
- Use objectives that relate to the content and the teaching method.

Behavioral Terms to Use

To measure knowledge	To measure understanding	To measure application	To measure analysis	To measure synthesis	To measure evaluation	To measure attitude
Define State Write Select Describe	Identify Select Indicate Illustrate Explain Classify Name	List Show Demonstrate Choose Perform Construct Select Assess Explain Reproduce	Analyze Identify Differentiate Select Compare Contrast	Combine Restate Summarize Discuss Organize Select	Evaluate Validate Determine Identify Choose	State

Example: Describe the ECG changes suggestive of anterior wall myocardial infarction.

Avoid using terms that are vague or cannot be measured.

Examples of terms to avoid:

- Enjoy
- Know
- Remember
- Think
- Understand
- Be familiar with
- Comprehend
- Appreciate
- Be interested in

Revised July 2007