

# How to write clear & concise learning objectives

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS



0. Take a look upon the Programme objectives and note which of these objectives should contribute.

### 1. What should learners be able to do after your course?

Tip 1: check if there is ONE goal per learning objective, instead of two. If you have two, split them into separate objectives.

#### Step 1

1. Ask yourself: What should students be able to do after this course?
2. Formulate objectives that suit your course, make clear what is most important to learn. There is no preferred number.
3. Distinguish general course objectives from specific objectives per lecture.

### 2. Connect the objectives to Bloom's Taxonomy

#### Step 2

1. Objectives need to be specific and on the right level of learning. See Bloom's taxonomy.
2. Appendix A shows an explanation per level, including an example of a learning objective.
3. Appendix B provides an overview of 'active verbs' per level. This helps you to select the right active verb that indicates what students should be able to do.

Tip 2: Include ONE active verb per objective. This verb is at the highest level of Bloom's taxonomy you are aiming for.

### 3. Formulate learning objectives by describing 4 elements

#### Step 3

1. Behavior: Desired 'observed learning outcomes' using an active verb (see Step & Hot tip 2).
2. Subject: The content to which the verb applies.
- If applicable:
  3. Condition: The conditions under which students should be able to demonstrate their behavior.
  4. Degree: Degree of competence that is required.

E.g.  
within 2 hours, in order to..., using..., with the help of...

### 4. Last tips

1. When you have an overlap in your learning objectives, for example: understanding and applying, decide whether these knowledge and skills need to be combined as one objective as they belong together - see hot tip 2. If this is not the case: see hot tip 1. Be aware that you need to assess these objectives separately then.

2. Keep objectives to-the-point. Don't elaborate on details of the content.

3. It's not always possible or necessary to use all 4 elements. Element 1 (action verb) and 2 (noun) are the bare minimum.

YOU'RE ALL SET - YOUR LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE NOW CLEAR & CONCISE!

Appendix A & B:

<https://canvas.eur.nl/courses/27954/pages/learning-objectives-appendix-ab>