

## Continuing Medical Education WRITING INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

**The three things which define a properly written instructional objective are:**

1. It must be student oriented, not instructor oriented
2. It must be stated in measurable terms, not in abstract terms
3. It must have a time constraint factor (i.e. the objective should be achieved at the end of the course and not require further study or learning by the student)

### ***CORRECTLY WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES***

The following are examples of correctly written objectives taken from different courses.

*Upon completion of this course the participants should be able to:*

1. Identify the instruments used in vitreous surgery
2. Explain the principles of allergic reactions
3. Describe how to implement spaced follow-up billing procedures
4. Describe the name and extent of the problem

### ***POORLY WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES***

The following are examples of poorly written objectives taken from different courses. See page 3 for words to avoid.

*Upon completion of this course the participant should be able to:*

1. Be familiar with the instruments used in vitreous surgery
2. Understand the principles of allergic reactions
3. Understand the need for spaced billing procedures
4. Confidently be able to determine the nature and extent of the problem

### **BEHAVIORAL/MEASURABLE TERMS**

For your guidance, please find behavioral/measurable terms below.

#### **ANALYSIS**

analyze	criticize	diagram	infer	question
appraise	debate	differentiate	inspect	separate
contract	deduce	distinguish	inventory	summarize
contrast	detect	experiment	measure	

#### **APPLICATION**

apply	employ	match	relate	sketch
calculate	examine	operate	report	solve
choose	illustrate	order	restate	translate
complete	interpolate	practice	review	treat
demonstrate	interpret	predict	schedule	use
develop	locate	prescribe	select	utilize

**COMPREHENSION**

assess	contrast	distinguish	interpolate	restate
associate	demonstrate	estimate	interpret	review
classify	describe	explain	locate	translate
compare	differentiate	express	predict	
compute	discuss	extrapolate	report	

**EVALUATION**

appraise	critique	evaluate	rank	score
assess	decide	grade	rate	select
choose	determine	judge	recommend	test
compare	estimate	measure	revise	

**INFORMATION**

cite	identify	quote	relate	tabulate
count	indicate	read	repeat	tell
define	list	recite	select	trace
describe	name	recognize	state	update
draw	point	record	summarize	write

**SYNTHESIS**

arrange	construct	formulate	plan	specify
assemble	create	generalize	prepare	validate
collect	design	integrate	prescribe	
combine	detect	manage	produce	
compose	document	organize	propose	

**THOSE THAT CONVEY ATTITUDES**

acquire	exemplify	plan	reflect	transfer
consider	modify	realize	revise	

**THOSE THAT IMPART SKILLS**

demonstrate	hold	massage	pass	visualize
diagnose	integrate	measure	percuss	write
diagram	internalize	operate	project	
empathize	listen	palpate	record	

**WORDS TO AVOID**

*These verbs and phrases are not measurable learning verbs and should never be used.*

- Appreciate
- Be acquainted with
- Be familiar with
- Become
- Believe
- Better
- Comprehend
- Cover
- Enjoy
- Expand
- Expand horizons
- Grasp the significance of
- Grow
- Have an awareness of
- Have faith in
- Improve
- Increase
- Increase interest
- Internalize
- Know
- Learn
- Perceive
- Really know
- Remember
- Study
- Sympathize with
- Think critically
- Understand