

Writing Learning Objectives

When writing Learning Outcomes, the focus is on observable outcomes. An “action verb” can provide that focus. An example of a Client Learning Outcome:

By the end of the program, clients will be able to demonstrate an ability to keep food and stress records using a smart phone app.

In this example, **demonstrate** is the “action verb.”

By the end of the cooking class, clients will be able to **apply** knowledge of food groups to **plan** nutritious and practical family menus.

In this example, **Apply** and **plan** are the “action verbs.”

This table provides Action Verbs that can be used in writing student learning outcomes.

Action Verbs			
Identify	Name	Distinguish	Define
Describe	Classify	Order	Construct
Demonstrate	Translate	Predict	Interpret
Generalize	Explain	Apply	Analyze
Recognize	Specify	Create	Judge
Attend	Volunteer	Participate	Run
Calculate	Communicate	Dance	Solve
Perform	Evaluate	Speak	Interview
Predict	Design	Locate	Draw

Client Learning Outcomes should describe what clients should know, be able to do, and/or be like (attitudes) by the end of the program. Benjamin **Bloom** is credited with identifying the **Taxonomy of the Cognitive Domain**. There are six levels that become increasingly more complex.

Cognitive (Knowledge) Domain		
Level	Action Verbs	Outcome Example
Knowledge	Recite, List	By the end of the program, learners will be able to list alternatives to high sodium foods.
Comprehension	Translate, interpret, predict, generalize, identify examples	By completion of the program, learner will demonstrate an ability to intervene to reduce weight bias.
Application	Apply, rewrite	By completion of the, learners will be able to plan, organize, direct and evaluate nutrition care plans.
Analysis	Analyze, dissect, resolve, solve, diagnose, investigate	Learners will be able to evaluate and diagnose clients' nutrient deficiencies.
Synthesis	Create, synthesize, write	Learners will be able to create programs that promote awareness of food insecurity and local food pantry resources.
Evaluation	Evaluate, judge, rate, appraise	Students will be able to evaluate financial performance of clinical food service operations.