

## Creating Student Learning Objectives

Learning objectives (also often referred to as outcomes) are statements that describe what students are expected to be able to do (or think, or feel) once the particular learning process is completed.

Objectives must be easily understandable, student-centered, measurable, and achievable through alignment with the course activities and assessments.

### Why are objectives important?

Objectives are the basis of a course. They are the framework that guides the development of assignments, activities and resources. Objectives make clear to students exactly what is expected of them and provide a way for faculty to assess if students have met the required goals. Northern Virginia Community College has created [an online lesson on learning objectives](#). Please feel free to participate in as much of it as you would like.

### How do I write strong learning objectives?

Basing your objectives on measurable skills is an important part of the creation process. This is a [useful list of action verbs](#) that you can use, provided by Fresno State University, to find verbs to describe the goals students should reach. Please review this and print it if you wish. This University of Wisconsin, Madison website gives a quick [overview of the process of writing objectives](#). This site is a helpful tool, also provided by University of Wisconsin, Madison that will lead you through [writing learning objectives](#). If you prefer, you can use the planning form, provided at the end of this guide, to create your learning objectives for each module of your course.

### Where do I place the objectives?

Once your learning objectives are created, place your course-level objectives inside of the beginning of your syllabus so students can review them at the start of the course. The module-level objectives can be placed later in the syllabus, in the course calendar, and/or next to each assignment that they align with. Harper College has a [syllabus template](#) that you can use to add the objectives to your syllabus. If you are teaching an online or hybrid course, then please be sure to also add the student learning objectives inside of your Blackboard shell. Add the applicable module learning objectives inside of each module/weekly/unit folder.

### How should objectives be aligned with assessments?

This helpful document from Carnegie Mellon, [Aligning Assessments with Objectives](#), provides examples of assessments that align with different types of learning objectives. Arizona State University provides a quick reminder about [how to align assessments with learning objectives](#).

### How can I learn more?

If you would like additional resources, please feel free to browse the following sites. Minnesota State University, Moorhead, offers [a useful development guide](#). Section 2, starting on page 8, the Course Development Process, contains information on learning objectives. UNC Charlotte offers this resource that lists [4 guides for helping you write objectives using Blooms' Taxonomy](#).