

Guidelines for Writing Learning Objectives

The following guidelines will help you ensure your session objectives adhere to the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) standards. Sessions should be between 1-2 hours. Generally, 3-5 learning objectives are appropriate for this duration. If your session is selected for Seminar 2016 you will be provided more detailed guidelines for developing your complete presentation.

Preparing Your Learning Objectives

- Create objectives that are specific and measurable or observable. For example, you cannot observe whether a learner comprehends information. You can measure or observe if a learner can accurately list, classify, or compare information.
- Objectives must be supported by the instruction in the educational program. If you are not going to teach it, don't create an objective for it.
- Good learning objectives define the behavior learned as a result of attending the educational program, not what the program will teach or the approach of the instructor.
 - Wrong:** "The objective of this article is to teach how to write effective cognitive educational objectives."
 - Right:** "After reading this article, learners will be able to explain the guidelines for writing effective learning objectives."
- Start each objective with a single measurable verb.

Examples of Terms to Use for Learning Objectives					
"After completing this activity, learners should be able to:"					
To Recall	To Comprehend	To Use	To Analyze	To Synthesize	To Judge
Define	Compose	Apply	Breakdown	Arrange	Appraise
Identify	Compile	Calculate	Categorize	Construct	Choose
Label	Describe	Choose	Compare	Create	Compare & Contrast
List	Discuss	Demonstrate	Debate	Design	Conclude
Name	Explain	Employ	Determine	Develop	Evaluate
Recall	Express	Perform	Diagram	Extend	Justify
Recite	Give examples	Solve	Distinguish	Formulate	Select
State	Say in own words	Use	Outline	Prepare	Support

AVOID objectives with vague terms such as: know, appreciate, become, improve, gain knowledge in, study, learn, comprehend, etc.