Bloom’s Taxonomy of Educational Objectives (1956): Cognitive Skills

A group of educators, led by Benjamin Bloom, identified a hierarchy of six categories of cognitive skills: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. As students learn, they start with the knowledge level and progress through the hierarchy. Thus, advanced courses should include skills at a higher level than introductory or basic skills courses. Below you will find a web-resource as well as a list of measurable verbs to assist you in writing course objectives and assess learning outcomes.

Knowledge Level: The successful student will recognize or recall learned information.
- list
- state
- name
- recall
- label

Comprehension Level: The successful student will restate or interpret information in their own words.
- explain
- translate
- identify
- restate
- discuss
- tell
- reference

Application Level: The successful student will use or apply the learned information.
- apply
- use
- practice
- demonstrate
- complete

Analysis Level: The successful student will examine the learned information critically.
- analyze
- distinguish
- differentiate
- appraise
- calculate
- experiment

Synthesis Level: The successful student will create new models using the learned information.
- develop
- plan
- build
- create
- design
- organize

Evaluation Level: The successful student will assess or judge the value of learned information.
- review
- justify
- assess
- defend
- report on
- investigate

Reference: State University of New York Clinton Community College
www.clinton.edu/curriculumcommittee/listofmeasurableverbs.cxml
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