Writing Effective Learning Objectives

Purpose of Learning Objectives

Learning objectives define the expected outcomes of an educational activity, helping participants understand its relevance and enabling evaluation of knowledge gained. Well-crafted learning objectives set clear expectations, guide instructional content, and support continuing education (CE) accreditation requirements.

Key Considerations

To determine if your learning objective is well-structured, ask yourself:
"At the end of this session, what should the learner be able to do?"

Examples of Strong Learning Objectives

- Identify the key factors influencing ...

- Explain the steps necessary to ...

- Discuss the challenges associated with ...

- Classify the different types of ...

- Describe best practices for ...

Guidelines for Writing Learning Objectives

Effective learning objectives should:

✓ Be **clear and concise**

✓ Focus on **one** specific action or behavior

✓ Be **measurable and observable**

✓ Begin with an **action verb** that defines a specific skill or competency

Avoid Ambiguous Verbs

Avoid using verbs like *understand, learn, appreciate, believe,* or *know*, as they are subjective and difficult to measure. Instead, use precise action verbs that describe observable skills.

Recommended Action Verbs

To create measurable learning objectives, consider using the following verbs:

- Analyze
- Apply
- Assess
- Categorize
- Classify
- Compare
- Create
- Describe
- Develop
- Diagnose
- Discuss
- Distinguish
- Explain
- Identify
- Interpret
- List
- Predict

- Relate

- Solve

- Summarize

- Translate

Abstract Submission Requirements

All submitted abstracts must include **at least one** learning objective that aligns with the topic identified in your proposal.