

Measurable action verbs for learning objectives

Low Level	Medium Level	High Level
define describe discuss explain explore identify indicate list memorize name recall recognize restate state summarize write	apply assemble calculate compare contrast combine defend demonstrate detect determine differentiate discriminate distinguish employ examine experiment implement investigate locate measure operate predict perform reproduce repair set up sequence solve specify use test verify	analyze appraise argue arrange assess build choose classify compose conclude critique debate diagram draw estimate extrapolate formulate generalize judge illustrate instruct label order organize plan prioritize propose rank represent score select theorize value weigh

The following are verbs to **avoid** because these verbs are difficult to quantify and evaluate. For example, how does one assess a student's understanding or appreciation?

appreciate	cover	gain knowledge of	realize
approximate	comprehend	know	reflect
be aware of	demonstrate an	learn (about)	see
be familiar with	understanding of	provide	study
become acquainted	familiarize	understand	

Based on Virginia Tech's "Verbs to Use for Learning Objectives," accessed on June 8, 2017, and available on page 6 of the document posted at the following URL:
https://www.registrar.vt.edu/content/dam/registrar_vt_edu/documents/governance/2015-2016/GCC_Course_Certificate_Proposal_Guidelines_2014-15.pdf