

MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGES WRITING MEASURABLE COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives appearing on the MHEC-CC-10 define the learning outcomes to be achieved by learners who successfully complete the course. The objectives are expressed in clear, precise, meaningful, non-promotional language. Standard rules for spelling, punctuation and grammar are followed. Objectives are listed in logical order with the most important objective listed first.

The course objectives:

- identify the outcomes of a learning experience,
- define outcomes as something meaningful and useful,
- illustrate the learning that will occur and the cognitive abilities that will be achieved,
- must be measurable.

Learning outcomes, as defined in the course objectives, have three distinguishing characteristics:

- the specified action by the learner must be observable,
- the specified action by the learner must be measurable,
- the specified action must be demonstrated by the learner.

The course objectives appearing on the MHEC-CC-10 must follow the conventions outlined in "Taxonomy of Educational Objectives" by Benjamin S. Bloom, 1956 to ensure that they are measurable. Bloom's Taxonomy provides structure and language to appropriately categorize and define measurable educational outcomes. Use the nouns, verbs and adjectives from the following lists when defining course outcomes. Vague and immeasurable terms such as "learn", "understand", "know" and "familiarize" are unacceptable.

MHEC-recommended lists of measurable nouns, verbs and adjectives from
Bloom's taxonomy

VERBS

Analyze	Diagram	Organize
Apply	Differentiate	Outline
Appraise	Discriminate	Perform
Arrange	Discuss	Plan
Articulate	Dissect	Practice
Assemble	Distinguish	Prepare
Assess	Dramatize	Process
Assign	Edit	Propose
Calculate	Employ	Provide
Categorize	Establish	Question
Choose	Estimate	Rank
Cite	Evaluate	Rate
Classify	Examine	Recall
Collect	Experiment	Recite
Combine	Explain	Recognize
Communicate	Explore	Record
Compare	Express	Refute
Complete	Formulate	Reinforce
Compose	Grade	Relate
Compute	Identify	Report
Conclude	Illustrate	Research
Conduct	Implement	Resolve
Construct	Increase	Restate
Contract	Initiate	Review
Contrast	Inspect	Revise
Coordinate	Interpret	Schedule
Create	Inventory	Score
Criticize	Judge	Select
Critique	Label	Set
Debate	List	Solve
Decide on	Locate	State
Decide to	Manage	Test
Define	Match	Translate
Demonstrate	Measure	Underline
Describe	Monitor	Use
Design	Name	Utilize
Determine	Operate	Write
Develop		

MHEC-recommended lists of measurable nouns, verbs and adjectives from Bloom's taxonomy		
Nouns (Strongly Recommended)		
Ability	Goal	Regulation
Advantage	Guideline	Relation
Application	Item	Requirement
Attribute	Means	Resource
Aspect	Method	Responsibility
Characteristic	Obligation	Role
Component	Part	Rule
Concept	Plan	Service
Consideration	Policy	Skill
Criteria	Position	Source
Effect	Principle	Step
Element	Procedure	Strategy
Example	Process	Style
Factor	Properties	Standard
Feature	Proposal	Technique
Form	Purpose	Trend
Function	Quality	Use
		Usage
Note: Pronouns are generally unacceptable in course objectives.		

Adjectives (recommended)		
Acceptable	Essential	Proper
Alternative	First	Realistic
Appropriate	General	Relative
Basic	Key	Relevant
Chief	Main	Required
Comprehensive	Major	Secondary
Dependable	Necessary	Specific
Correct	Particular	Standard
Divergent	Primary	Suitable
Dominant	Prime	Usual
Effective	Principal	Various