



Setting the Stage: Making the Story Better with Course Learning Objectives

Focus on Teaching and Learning  Spark Up Your Syllabus Series

March 24, 2023

Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Institutional Effectiveness



Session Outcomes

- Leverage the Learning Outcomes & Objectives Framework - A Crossroad between Bloom's and Fink's Taxonomies to create holistic learning objectives.
- Utilize a learning outcome generator to write statements using three key aspects – performance, condition, and criteria.

Writing Sound Learning Objectives

What is a learning objective?

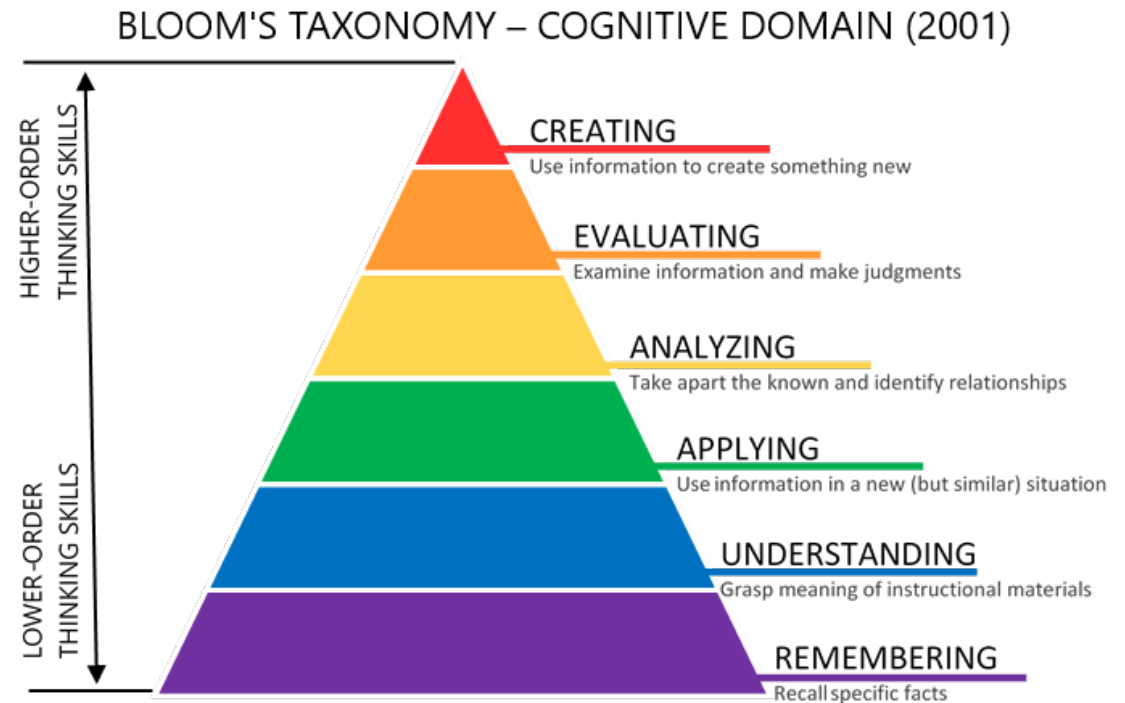
- A statement that tells learners what they should be able to DO, in measurable terms, AFTER instruction
- A well-defined learning objective has three parts:
 - **Performance:** actions that demonstrate learning
 - **Condition:** demonstration of that action in a given setting
 - **Criterion:** standard for demonstrated learning

Chat Storm

- Review your course syllabus and identify at least one course learning objective you want to work with today.
- Write your course objective in the chat box.

Bloom's Taxonomy and Critique

- Learning is described as change in behavior.
- Objectives describe student behavior (e.g., to read, to interpret, to distinguish).
- Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive learning is the most commonly used by the faculty.
- Bloom's taxonomy provides a shared language to classify objectives so that faculty can discuss, communicate, and evaluate students' performance.
- Critique:
 - Bloom's taxonomy assumes that the **cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains are separate** - however, in reality, these domains are intricately related in how one acquires knowledge.
 - Important learning experiences do not emerge easily from Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive learning such as **learning how to learn, leadership and interpersonal skills, ethics, communication skills, character, tolerance, and the ability to adapt to change.**

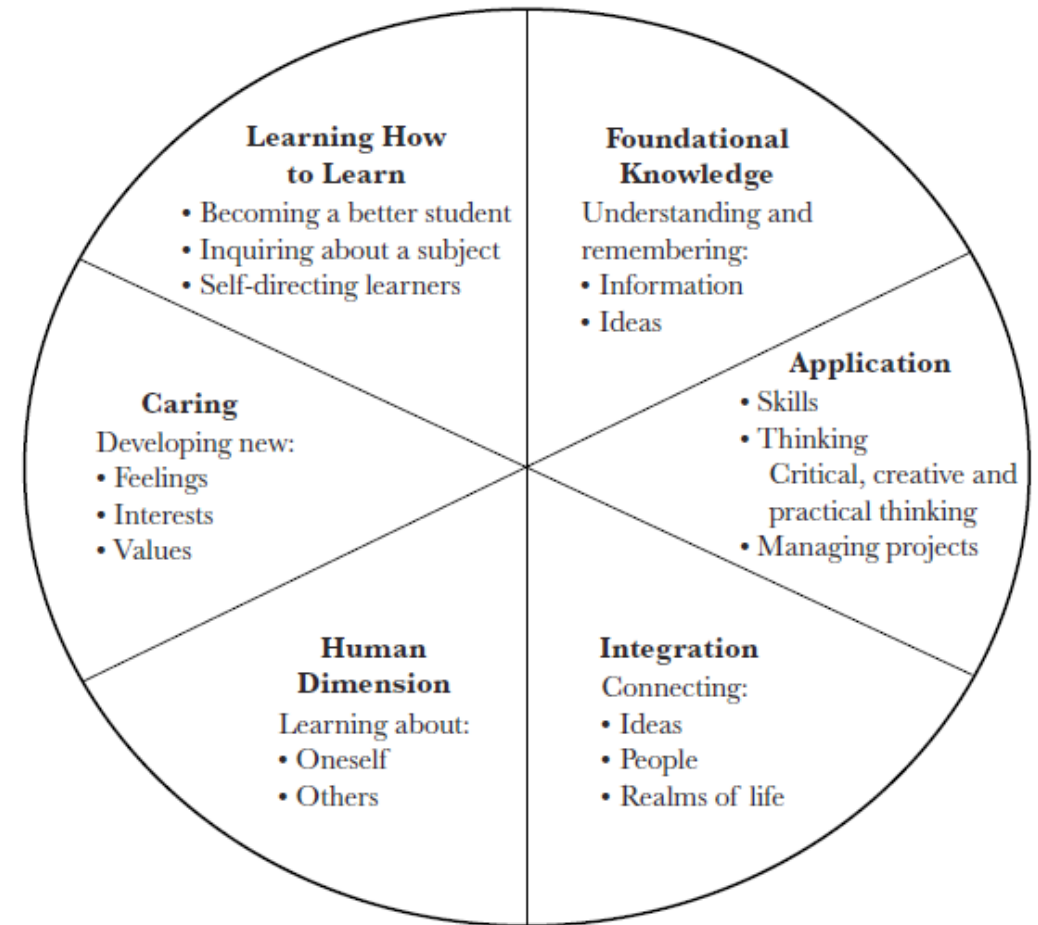


(Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001; Krathwohl 2002; Pring, 1971)

Fink's Taxonomy and Why Use It

- Learning is defined as change in the learner.
- Fink's taxonomy caters to the types of learning that goes beyond cognitive learning and includes affective and meta-cognitive aspects of learning.
- **Not a hierarchical taxonomy** because it explains the interactive nature of learning.
- **Emphasize the use of action-verbs, condition, and criteria** for generating evidence of learning.
- Increased emphasis on alignment between **objectives, teaching and assessment.**

FIGURE 2.1. TAXONOMY OF SIGNIFICANT LEARNING.



(Fink, 2013)

Learning Outcomes & Objectives Framework - A Crossroad between Bloom's and Fink's Taxonomies

Bloom's Levels of Learning		Fink's Domains of Learning					
		Foundational Knowledge Understanding and remembering information and ideas	Human Dimension Learning about oneself and others	Caring Develop new feelings, interests, and values	Application Apply critical, creative, and practical skills to solve problems and manage projects	Integration Connect ideas, people, and realms	Learning How to Learn Become a better student, and self-directed learner. Inquire about a subject
Intellectual Skills	Create Generate new idea or concept	Conduct, Compile, Predict, Animate, Develop, Align, Perform, Create, Exhibit	Advocate, Propose, Produce, Initiate, Invent, Instruct, Build, Collaborate, Role play	Generate, Improve, Restructure, Coordinate, Propose, Synthesize, Cultivate, Theorize, Commit	Design, Develop, Create, Combine, Produce, Organize, Pledge, Propose, Write	Construct, Predict, Modify, Assemble, Display, Integrate, Participate, Host, Manage	Generate, Set Goals, Experiment, Dramatize, Structure, Campaign, Reflect
	Evaluate Justify a decision or course of action	Rate, Validate, Estimate, Measure, Prove, Evaluate, Appraise, Support, Critique, Reflect	Critique, Give Feedback, Clarify, Resolve, Setup, Determine, Support, Advocate, Exemplify	Assess, Judge, Diagnose, Balance, Compare, Reconcile, Value, Recommend, Promote	Critique, Justify, Contrast, Discern, Reframe, Respond, Review, Defend, Decide	Conclude, Associate, Test, Check, Compare, Determine, Grade, Modify	Justify, Predict, Resolve, Develop, Formulate, Measure, Determine, Verify, Internalize
	Analyze Break information into parts	Analyze, Contrast, Illustrate, Calibrate, Classify, Organize, Choose, Delay, Identify	Characterize, Distinguish, Analyze, Examine, Collaborate, Illustrate, Mediate, Detail, Discover	Explore, Correlate, Demonstrate, Analyze, Dispense, Configure, Empathize, Practice, Assemble	Outline, Deduce, Compare, Handle, Infer, Map out, Report, Examine, Investigate, Survey	Question, Relate, Formulate, Tabulate, Graph, Dismantle, Link, Integrate, Comply, Compare and Contrast	Self-Assess, Self-Regulate, Frame questions, Arrange, Diagram, Scrutinize, Map, Categorize, Interpret
	Apply Use information in given situations	Prepare, Explore, Give Example, Discuss, Process, Act, Consult, Realize, Apply	Demonstrate, Modify, Discover, Promote, Guide, Organize, Associate, Cooperate, Specify, Support	Demonstrate, Illustrate, Identify, Interview, Transfer, Express, Initiate, Share	Operate, Calculate, Solve, Hypothesize, Obtain, Design, Propose, Persevere, Use	Use, Personalize, Compare, Combine, Concept map, Graph, Recommend, Acknowledge, Integrate	Modify, Deconstruct, Inquire, Compose, Practice, Sketch, Exemplify, Utilize, Show
Declarative Knowledge	Understand Explain ideas or concepts	Explain, Paraphrase, Restate, Map, Annotate, Collect, Accept, Illustrate, Adhere	Represent, Compare, Translate, Infer, Mix, Record, Make, Note, Discuss, Express	Select, Elaborate, Interpret, Respond, Combine, Display, Agree With, Value, Renew interest	Summarize, Provide Examples, Adapt, Maintain, Identify, Show, Suggest, Express	Extend, Associate, Convert, Plot, Draw Communicate, Restate, Connect, Visualize	Describe, Interpret, Translate, Diagram, Balance, Grasp, Participate, Review, Specify
	Remember Recall information	Define, Name, Indicate, List, Identify, Collect, Choose, Ask, Follow, Comply with	Specify, Recognize, Label, Follow, React, Listen, Accept, Seek	Quote, Recognize, Recall, Read, Copy, Mimic, Describe, Recollect, Adhere	Enumerate, State, Reproduce, Replicate, Sequence, Credit, Read, Explore, Imagine	Indicate, Recite, Blend, Merge, Imitate, Exercise, Collect, Trace, Follow, Document	Recall, Monitor, List, Read, Underline, Search, Recite, Listen

Example 1

- Weak Objective: **Compute standard deviation.**
Performance
- Better Objective: **Compute standard deviation for a given data set**
Performance Condition
- Best Objective: **Compute standard deviation for a given data set and report results in the APA style.**
Performance Condition
Criteria

Example 2

- Weak Objective: ^{Performance} Focus the microscope.
- Better Objective: ^{Performance} Focus the microscope, at ^{Condition} 3 different strengths, on a cell slide
- Best Objective: ^{Performance} Focus the microscope, at ^{Condition} 3 different strengths, on a cell slide with ^{Criteria} enough clarity to draw the features of a cell.

Examples

Key: Performance Condition Criteria

- Conduct needs analysis for a community reading project using Gilbert's performance matrix.
- Write an essay explaining roles of AI in enhancing human performance in 500 words.
- Identify five leadership traits that are common to the case studies covered in the course.
- List ten descriptive verbs that could be used in the place of "said".
- Label the organs in the human digestive system with at least 80% accuracy.

Let's build a learning objective!

<https://tinyurl.com/outcome-generator>

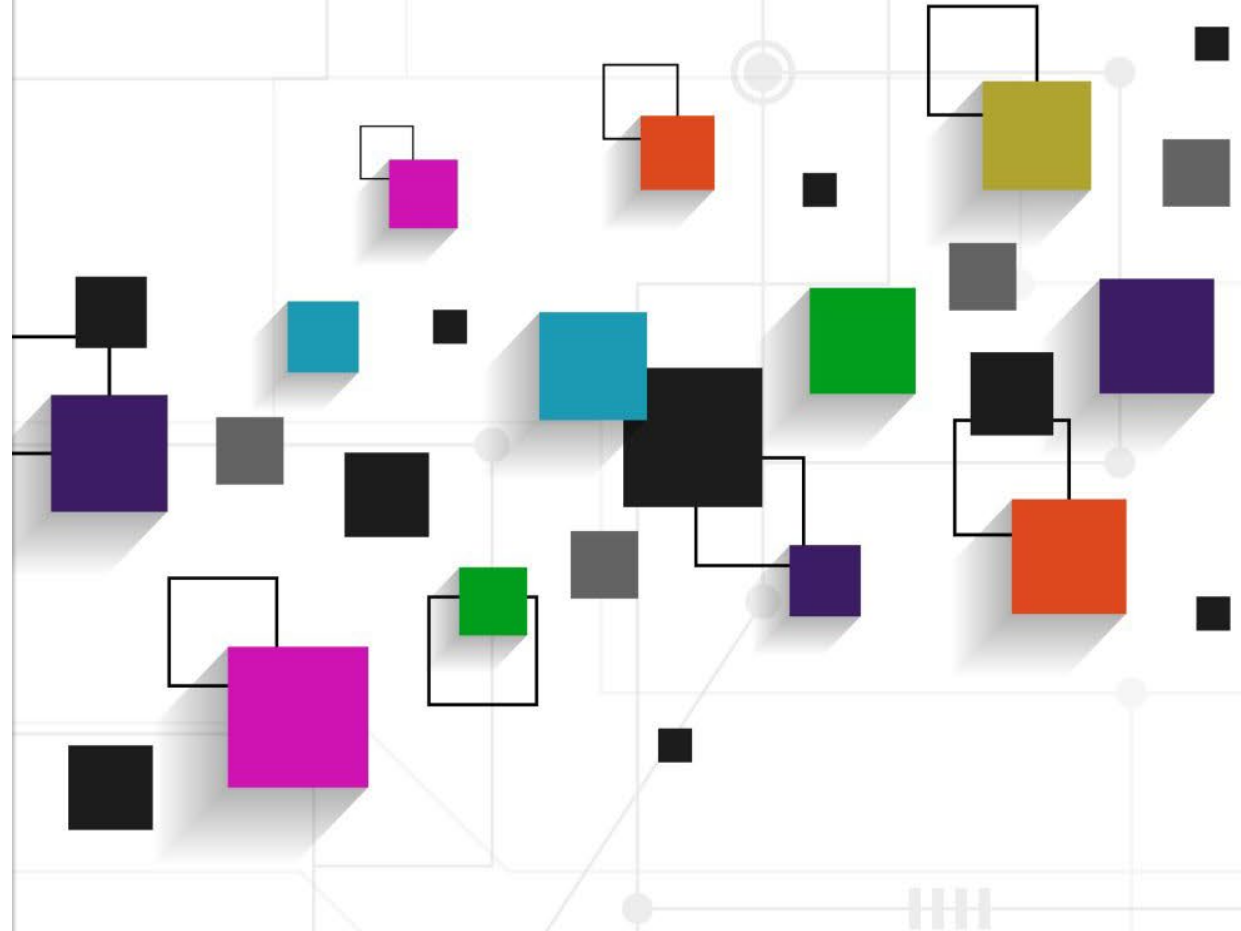


Chat Storm 2

- Rewrite your course objective utilizing the course objective generator. Make sure to include Performance, Condition, Criteria.
 - **Performance:** actions that demonstrate learning
 - **Condition:** demonstration of that action in a given setting
 - **Criterion:** standard for demonstrated learning
- Share your course objective in the chat box.

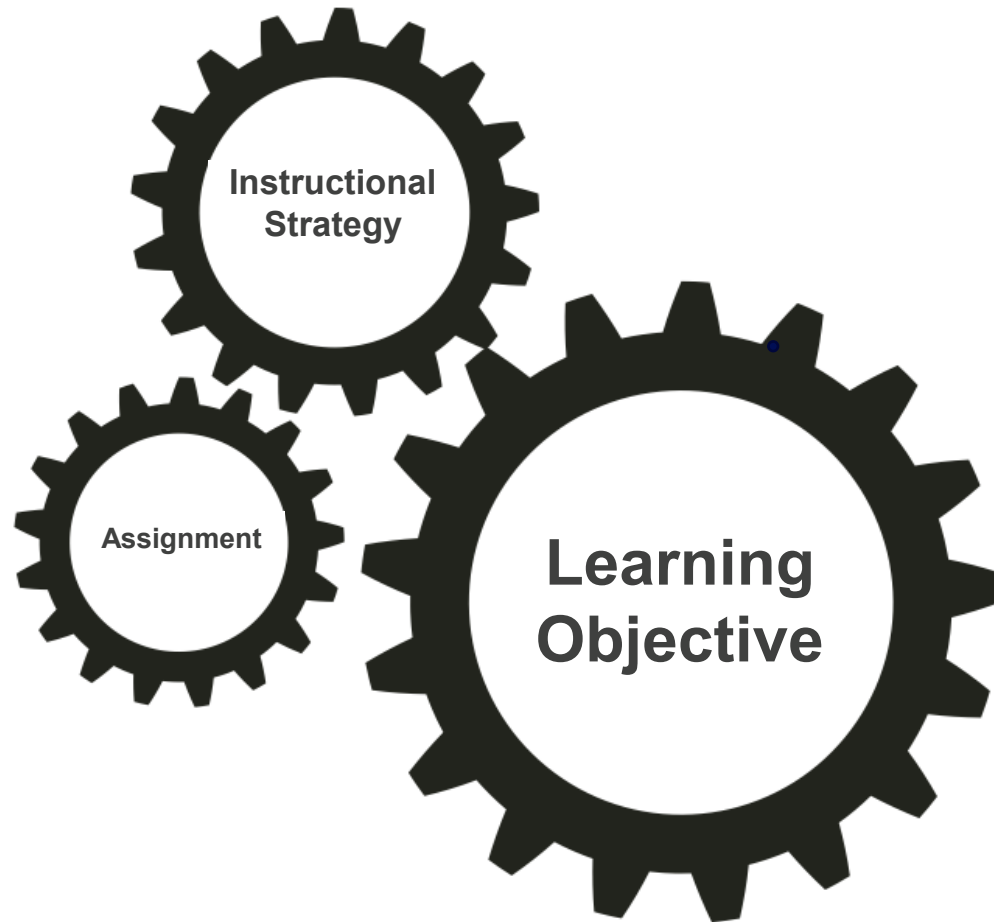
What story does your learning objective tell?

- Does it spark curiosity in the learner?
- Is it transparent (includes performance, condition and criteria)?
- Does it use learner friendly language?



The Plot Thickens: Spark Student Engagement in Course Activities and Assignments

Upcoming Session: April 14, 2023



Questions & Discussion





Thank you for joining us!

Focus on Teaching and Learning

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for Teaching and Learning Excellence
and Institutional Effectiveness

