

## Verbs for Writing Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes should be expressed through the use of active verbs which spell out what students will be able to do.

In order to achieve clarity, expressions such as 'to know', 'to understand', 'to appreciate', 'to be acquainted with', should be avoided, since they are too vague to convey the exact nature of the outcome being sought.

More active and explicit verbs such as 'state', 'show', 'explain', 'define', 'describe', 'predict', 'recognise' and 'criticise' should be used wherever possible.

The list below is a guide to words which can be used to express learning outcomes, grouped according to various generic level descriptors.

### A. Cognitive Areas

#### **1. Activities which give evidence of knowing**

Define, describe, identify, label, list, name, outline, reproduce, recall, select, state, present, extract, organise, recount, write, measure, relate, match, record.

#### **2. Activities giving evidence of comprehension**

Interpret, translate, estimate, justify, clarify, defend, distinguish, explain, generalise, exemplify, infer, predict, rewrite, summarise, discuss, perform, report, present, indicate, find, represent, formulate, contrast, classify, express, compare, recognise, account.

#### **3. Activities giving evidence of application of knowledge/understanding**

Apply, solve, demonstrate, change, compute, manipulate, use, employ, modify, operate, predict, produce, relate, show, select, choose, assess, operate, illustrate, verify.

#### **4. Activities giving evidence of analysis**

Recognise, distinguish between, evaluate, analyse, break down, differentiate, identify, illustrate how, infer, outline, point out, relate, select, separate, divide, compare, contrast, justify, resolve, examine, conclude, criticise, question, diagnose, categorise, elucidate.

#### **5. Activities giving evidence of synthesis**

Arrange, assemble, organise, plan, prepare, design, formulate, construct, propose, present, explain, modify, reconstruct, relate, re-organise, revise, write, summarise, account for, report, alter, argue, order, select, manage, generalise, derive, synthesise, enlarge, suggest.

#### **6. Activities giving evidence of creativity**

Originate, image, begin, design, invent, initiate, state, create, pattern, elaborate, develop, devise, generate, engender

#### **7. Activities giving evidence of evaluation**

judge, evaluate, assess, discriminate, appraise, conclude, compare, contrast, criticise, justify, defend, rate, determine, choose, value, question, measure.

## **B. Transferable Skills**

### **1. Psycho-motor skills**

Perform, execute, operate, manipulate

### **2. Self Appraisal and Reflection on Practice**

Reflect, identify, recognise, evaluate, criticise, judge

### **3. Planning and Management of Learning**

Plan, prioritise, access, use, select, explore, identify, decide

### **4. Problem-solving**

Identify, choose, select, recognise, implement, define, apply, assess, resolve, propose, formulate, plan

### **5. Communication Presentation**

Communicate, express, articulate, question, examine, argue, debate, explain, formalise, respond, rebut, justify, defend, listen, illustrate, demonstrate, organise, pace, model, summarise

### **6. Interactive and group skills**

Accommodate, interact, collaborate, participate, co-operate, co-ordinate, structure, arbitrate, initiate, lead, direct, guide, support, decide, set goals, motivate, reflect, evaluate, recognise, enable, Learning Support Services, confirm, include

Source:

Victoria University A New School of Thought

Teaching and Learning Support eLearning Designing and Creating your Online Unit

<http://tinyurl.com/yjxux6s> date last accessed 12-11-09