



Create Learning Objectives

Learning objectives are the concepts and skills that students need to know and be able to do to ultimately meet course outcomes (DePaul University). They are statements describing exactly what your students should know and be able to do at specific points during the course and are the building blocks to the course outcomes (Nilson, 2016).

According to the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Iowa State University, learning objectives are:

- More specific than course outcomes
- Encompass distinct units of knowledge and skills
- Can be accomplished in shorter periods of time

Aligning Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives

To create unit- or module-level learning objectives, begin by listing the specific concepts students will need to know and the skills they will need to develop to be able to demonstrate mastery of each course outcome.

The examples below demonstrate how learning objectives can be written to support course outcomes.

Course	Course outcome	Learning objectives
Biology 101	Describe the flow of information in various signaling pathways and in the flow from DNA to proteins.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw a basic model of DNA, being able to point out where DNA variation is part of the structure. 2. Distinguish what makes somatic cells in the body similar and what makes them different. 3. Trace a specific DNA sequence all the way to a protein. 4. Calculate the variations in code that lead to the same protein.
Nursing	Apply empathy and open-mindedness while working with patients in hospital settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define empathy. 2. Describe an open-minded approach toward patients. 3. Apply empathy within your bedside manner. 4. Demonstrate open-mindedness within your bedside manner.
Spanish Language	Demonstrate advanced proficiency in spoken and written Spanish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speak persuasively in Spanish. 2. Interpret written text in Spanish. 3. Develop a written argument in Spanish in response to written text.



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Sources

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Iowa State University. Retrieved from <https://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/preparing-to-teach/tips-on-writing-course-goalslearning-outcomes-and-measurable-learning-objectives/>

DePaul University, Teaching Commons. (n.d.). *Course objectives and learning outcomes*. <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching-guides/course-design/Pages/course-objectives-learning-outcomes.aspx>

Nilson, L. B. (2016). *Teaching at its best: A research-based resource for college instructors* (4th ed.). John Wiley & Sons.