

Writing Learning Outcomes

Typically, they are written in the format of an outcome, which represent what students will be able to do or know as a result of the course:

On completing this course (or this section of the course) students will be able to do:

- An **action** word that identifies the performance that will be demonstrated
- A **learning statement** that specifies what learning will be demonstrated in the performance
- A broad statement of the **criterion** or standard for acceptable performance

Examples of learning outcomes

- Students will be able to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and use them appropriately in their research.
- Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of proofs by determining whether or not an argument is valid.
- Students will be able to explore information resources-- through both the traditional library and emerging technological sources—to use them effectively, and to acknowledge them correctly.
- Students will be able to generate appropriate statistical measures to test hypotheses and determine which outcomes support (or do not support) the hypotheses.

More information about writing learning outcomes can be found in the article “How to Write Program Objectives/Objectives” developed at University of Connecticut.