

## Writing Learning Goals

Learning goals should clearly articulate expected outcomes of student learning upon completion of instruction (e.g. major, minor, graduate degree, course). These goals should be **directly** measurable (i.e., student assignments), although indirect measures are also useful and can be used in addition to direct measures (i.e., student surveys, feedback from student focus groups, course evaluations).

Although this list is not exhaustive, learning goals can also be referred to by the following:

- Learning objectives
- Outcomes
- Aims
- Competencies
- Educational objectives

Learning goals should follow the model that the college has adopted for learning goals associated with courses: “By the time that students have completed [the program/major/minor/course], they will be able to...”

- See: <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/facultyhandbook/LearningGoals.htm>

For each goal, use verbs that make clear to students (and instructors) what students will be able to do upon the completion of the program. The emphasis is on the student and not the faculty member. Use verbs such as those contained in typical discussions of “Bloom’s taxonomy.” In writing student learning goals use active verbs.

Example:

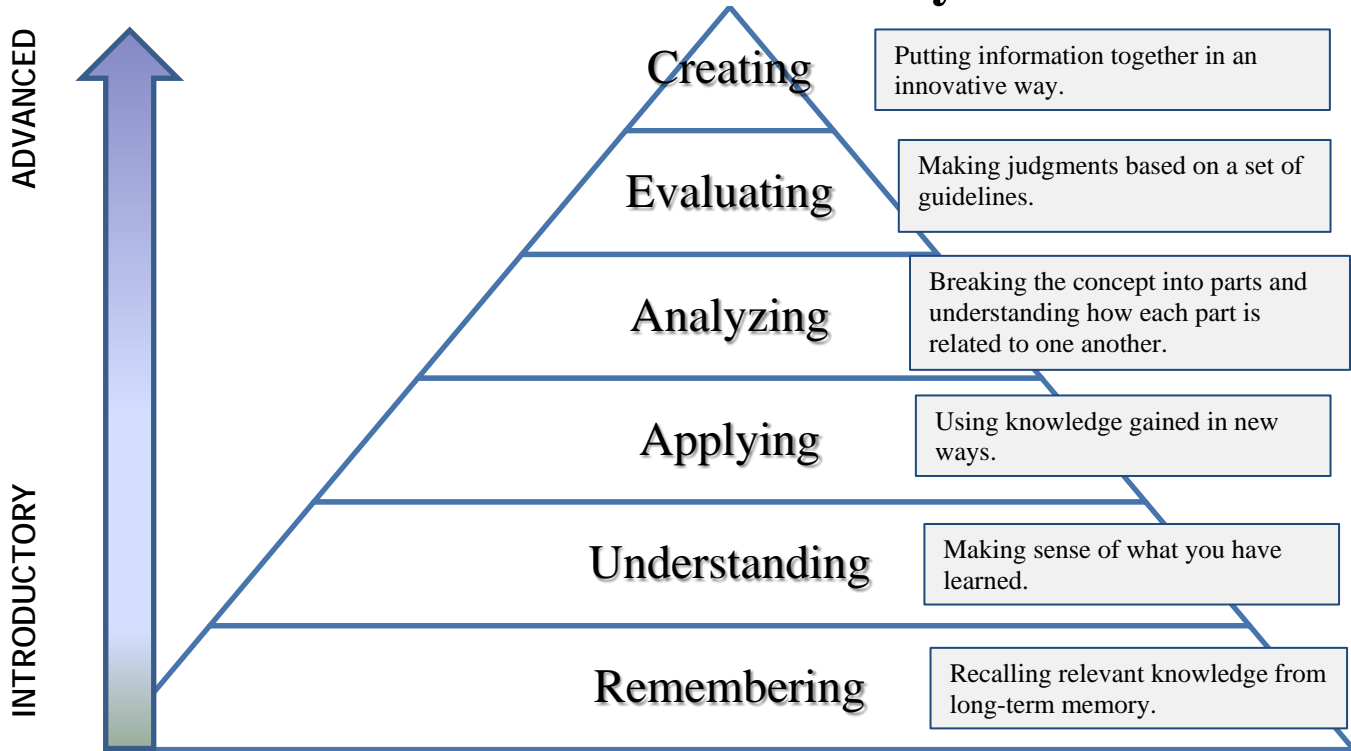
Student will be able to:

- List
- Explain
- Summarize
- Interpret
- Compare/contrast
- Design
- Evaluate

Student learning goals should be appropriate to the level of each course or program. The following diagrams illustrate Bloom’s taxonomy as well as common verbs associated with levels of learning.

**Bloom's Taxonomy**

# Bloom's Taxonomy



## Verbs Useful for Stating Learning Outcomes

Remembering	Understanding	Applying	Analyzing	Evaluating	Creating
Define	Translate	Interpret	Distinguish	Judge	Combine
Describe	Restate	Apply	Analyze	Appraise	Compose
List	Discuss	Employ	Differentiate	Evaluate	Construct
Name	Describe	Use	Calculate	Rate	Design
Recall	Recognize	Demonstrate	Experiment	Compare	Develop
Record	Explain	Dramatize	Test	Value	Formulate
Relate	Express	Practice	Compare	Revise	Invent
Repeat	Identify	Illustrate	Criticize	Score	Make
Underline	Locate	Operate	Diagram	Select	Originate
	Report	Schedule		Choose	Organize
	Review	Shop		Assess	Produce
	Tell	Sketch		Estimate	Tell
				Measure	Compile
					Devise
					Generate
					Propose