CENTER
for
TEACHING

Examples of Verbs for Specifying Learned Behaviors
at Each Level of the Cognitive Domain

If you want students to *recall*

Ask them to

Know common terms
Know specific facts
Know methods and procedures
Know basic concepts
Know principles

Recall, identify, describe, define, cite, count, list, name, memorize, match, tell who or what, label, fill in the blank, reproduce, select, state, outline, record, underline

If you want students to *comprehend*

Ask them to

Understand facts and principles
Interpret verbal material
Interpret charts and graphs
Translate verbal material to mathematical formula
Estimate future consequences implied in data
Justify methods and procedures

Summarize, paraphrase, translate, explain, interpret, convert, defend, write a short answer, distinguish, estimate, generalize, give examples, infer, predict, compute, identify, rewrite in their own words, restate, review

If you want students to *apply*

Ask them to

Apply concepts and principles to new situations
Apply laws and theories to practical situation
Solve mathematical problems
Construct charts and graphs
Demonstrate correct usage of a method or procedures

Apply, show, make, illustrate, demonstrate, teach, use, tell how…, change, compute, manipulate, modify, operate, predict, prepare, produce, solve, calculate, employ, examine, practice, interpret

If you want students to *analyze*

Ask them to

Recognize unstated assumptions
Recognize logical fallacies in reasoning
Distinguish between facts and inferences
Evaluate the relevancy of data
Analyze the organizational structure of a work

Compare, contrast, classify, categorize, dissect, distinguish, determine, deduce, investigate, break down, diagram, infer, differentiate, discriminate, identify, outline, separate, subdivide, debate, test, examine

CENTER
for
TEACHING

If you want students to *synthesize*   **Ask them to**

Write a well organized theme   Categorize, combine, compile, compose,
Give a well organized speech   create, design, predict, hypothesize, invent,
Produce a design, prediction, hypothesis, invention,   solve, infer, imagine, devise, explain,
formula, solution, synthesis, project, or plan   generate, modify, organize, reconstruct,
                                                           revise, reorganize, write, arrange, assemble,
                                                           construct, formulate, integrate, prescribe,
                                                           propose, plan, manage

If you want students to *evaluate*   **Ask them to**

Judge the logical consistency of written material   Appraise, compare, conclude, contrast,
Judge the adequacy with which conclusions are   criticize, describe, discriminate, explain,
supported by data   justify, interpret, summarize, support, assess,
Judge the value of a work by using internal criteria   choose, estimate, rank, score select
Judge the value of a work by using external standards of
excellence

Adapted from:

Ford, Charles W. Clinical Education for the Allied Health Professions. Mosby: St. Louis, 1978

Gronlund, Norman E. Stating Objectives for Classroom Instruction. Macmillan publishing Co.: New York, 1970.

Zlatic, Thomas D.,Ed. Developing Teaching Abilities within Pharmacy Education: A Sourcebook. St. Louis College of
    Pharmacy And American Association of College of Pharmacy: St. Louis, 1995.