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

**If you want students to recall**

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

**Ask them to**

- 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**

- 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

**Ask them to**

- 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**

- 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

**Ask them to**

- 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**

- 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

**Ask them to**

- Compare, contrast, classify, categorize, dissect, distinguish, determine, deduce, investigate, break down, diagram, infer, differentiate, discriminate, identify, outline, separate, subdivide, debate, test, examine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you want students to <strong>synthesize</strong></th>
<th>Ask them to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write a well organized theme</td>
<td>Categorize, combine, compile, compose, create, design, predict, hypothesize, invent, solve, infer, imagine, devise, explain, generate, modify, organize, reconstruct, revise, reorganize, write, arrange, assemble, construct, formulate, integrate, prescribe, propose, plan, manage</td>
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<td>Give a well organized speech</td>
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<td>Produce a design, prediction, hypothesis, invention, formula, solution, synthesis, project, or plan</td>
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<tr>
<th>If you want students to <strong>evaluate</strong></th>
<th>Ask them to</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judge the logical consistency of written material</td>
<td>Appraise, compare, conclude, contrast, criticize, describe, discriminate, explain, justify, interpret, summarize, support, assess, choose, estimate, rank, score select</td>
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<td>Judge the adequacy with which conclusions are supported by data</td>
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<td>Judge the value of a work by using internal criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge the value of a work by using external standards of excellence</td>
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**Adapted from:**

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