

Analyzing Learning Objectives Cheat Sheet

Is the Objective: (1)Specific, (2)Measurable, (3)Student-Centered

1. Specific

Avoid Student Learning Objectives that are too broad, too vague, or have multiple measurable verbs.

Specific Example #1:

SLO 1: Students will *create* a product and explain the product's life cycle.

Improved Specific Example(s) #1:

SLO 1: Students will *create* a product that serves a need in a given market.

SLO 2: Students will explain the product life cycle process as it relates to a specific product.

NOTE: The improved version is now two separate SLOs. The first part of the old objective is made more specific, while the second part is now a separate SLO.

Specific Example #2:

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to use tools properly.

Improved Specific Example(s) #2:

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate an ability to use web programming tools to create a functional ecommerce website.

NOTE: The improved version is now more clear and defined.

2. Measurable

Use an action verb that shows how the objective is measured ([example action verb list](#)).

Measurable Example #1:

Students will *understand* the four stages of the product life cycle.

Improved Measurable Example #1:

Students will *describe* the four stages of the product life cycle

NOTE: *Understand* is difficult to measure while *describe* could be measured through a quiz, written assignment, case study, or many other methods of assessment.

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Measurable Example #2:

Students will *know* the four stages of the product life cycle.

Improved Example:

Students will *explain* the four stages of the product life cycle

NOTE: *Know* is difficult to measure while *explain* could be measured through a quiz, written assignment, case study, or many other methods of assessment.

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3. Student Centered

Write objectives that focus on what students do, not what the instructor does.

Student-Centered Example #1:

The instructor will teach the four stages of the product life cycle.

Improved Student-Centered Example #1:

Students will *discuss* the four stages of the product life cycle.

The example SLO shows what the instructor will do, which is not measurable by a student assessment, nor is it student-focused. The improved SLO focuses on the student to better demonstrate what assessment needs to be created.

Practice

Now take a look at your course SLOs. Are they

- Specific
- Measurable
- Student centered

Also, are there any SLOs that should no longer be part of the course? Are there new skills that need to be added?

Just a few minutes analyzing your current SLOs can make a significant difference in the relevance and quality of the outcome.