

February Tip of the Month

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

So -- who was **Bloom** anyway and why is his name synonymous with curriculum development?

PROFESSOR Benjamin Bloom of Chicago University and co-workers, who met from 1948 to 1953, devised a stairway with **six steps to learning**. The six steps (levels) are rough estimates and are not absolute. The ability to observe is not included in this model either. Observational skills can be fostered or trained to your advantage (relaxation and even boredom should help)!



Benjamin Bloom
(1913-99)

Source: <http://oaks.nvg.org/taxonomy-bloom.html>

The **outcomes, objectives, and goals** for learning that have been established at CCAC are closely aligned to Bloom's Taxonomy of Learning Objectives. Each begins with an *assessable verb* that describes what the student should be able to do upon successful completion of a course, program, or degree at CCAC.

Some examples of assessable verbs are as follows (note progression of verbs within the cognitive domain of learning).

1. **Knowledge:** arrange, define, duplicate, label, list, memorize, name, order, recognize, relate, recall, repeat, reproduce, and state.
2. **Comprehension:** classify, describe, discuss, explain, express, identify, indicate, locate, recognize, report, restate, review, select, and translate.
3. **Application:** apply, choose, demonstrate, dramatize, employ, illustrate, interpret, operate, practice, schedule, sketch, solve, use, write.

4. **Analysis:** analyze, appraise, calculate, categorize, compare, contrast, criticize, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, and test.
5. **Synthesis:** arrange, assemble, collect, compose, construct, create, design, develop, formulate, manage, organize, plan, prepare, propose, set up, and write.
6. **Evaluation:** appraise, argue, assess, attach, choose, compare, defend estimate, judge, predict, rate, core, select, support, value, evaluate.

From Bloom, B.S. *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*.
Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. Copyright (c) 1984 by
Pearson Education.

CHALLENGE:

Of the following levels, which one describes your approach to teaching? *Be sure to look at the verbs on your course outlines...*

Six levels of learning according to Bloom et al

The levels are thought to build on one another. The six levels in the figure pertain to thinking, the so-called cognitive domain. Here they are:

