

Lake Area Technical College
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program
Writing Behavioral Objectives

COMPONENTS of a Behavioral Objective

- A. **AUDIENCE / WHO:** audience for whom the objective is intended: "The physical therapist assistant student will..."
- B. **BEHAVIOR / WHAT:** specific observable actions/behaviors the student is to perform or exhibit. Use the taxonomy to identify a verb that distinguishes the level of the behavior.
- C. **CONDITIONS / "GIVENS:"** relevant factors affecting the actual performance
1. in the classroom, lab or clinical setting...
 2. upon completion of the assignment or learning task...
 3. after reviewing instruction...
 4. following a lecture, demonstration or discussion...
 5. with(out) the use of notes, text, lab manuals...
 6. when provided with certain materials or equipment...
 7. given a case study, diagram, clinical problem...
 8. on a model, classmate, patient...
- D. **DEGREE / CRITERION FOR SUCCESS:** level of achievement indicating acceptable performance.
1. to a degree of accuracy, e.g. 90% or + or - 1 s.d.
 2. to a stated proportion, e.g. within 2 mm of mercury
 3. within a given time period
 4. within a given number of trials
 5. to a standard of clinical acceptability
 6. to be verified by an external agency, panel, person
 7. according to criteria set forth in a lab manual, standard operating policy, skill analysis, or other document
 8. to the satisfaction of the instructor
- E. **Goals should also be "S.M.A.R.T."**
1. **S:** Specific – a specific behavior/activity/task
 2. **M:** Measurable – units of measurement
 3. **A:** Attainable – achievable and appropriate
 4. **R:** Relevant – realistic and focused on results
 5. **T:** Time-based – within a specific time frame
- F. **Examples:**
1. Following demonstration and practice with the clinical instructor, the student will be able to transfer a patient post stroke from the bed to the wheelchair safely with minimal cuing from the CI.
 2. By midterm, the student will be able to accurately document a daily note according to facility guidelines without CI input.