

Writing Learning Objectives for Internships

Learning objectives are specific, measurable statements of what you hope to accomplish or learn during your internship. Each objective should be clear and concise. Think about what you want to gain from this internship experience. Setting goals and learning objectives provides a means for evaluation of your experience. Writing the learning objectives is a collaborative effort between you and your faculty advisor.

Each learning objective should be specific, realistic, measurable and have a completion date within the time frame of the internship. A measurable learning objective is a clear statement of what and how you are planning to accomplish your goals. There are three types of learning objectives: Academic, Professional and Personal:

1. Academic Learning Objectives

Application of concepts or theories of your major and your liberal arts education and/or development of new knowledge and understanding.

Examples:

1. Learn and understand the methods involved in researching legislation for committee assignments.
2. Analyze political theories used in campaign planning.
3. Apply the principles of accounting to tax preparation.

2. Professional Learning Objectives

Skill development related to your major or an occupation; and/or general skills such as oral and written communication, critical thinking, organization, problem solving, decision making, leadership, interpersonal relationships, technical, etc.

Examples:

1. Collaborate with a remote team on projects while also working independently over the semester on a deliverable.
2. Learn to administer and interpret personality inventories.
3. Learn and understand the logistics and components of event planning by creating a how to manual for a regional event.

3. Personal Learning Objectives

Personal development such as self-awareness, self-confidence, sensitivity and appreciation for diversity, clarification of work and personal values, Career and Post-Graduate Development.

Examples:

1. Determine if working for an accounting firm is an appropriate career goal for me.
2. Develop my potential as a facilitator in group counseling.
3. Familiarize myself with trade groups and associations and learn their code of ethics and read trade periodicals.