Examples of Learning Goals

Examples from Stanford's office of Institutional Research & Decision Support and syllabi of Stanford faculty members:

Languages and Literature

Students will be able to:

- apply critical terms and methodology in completing a literary analysis following the conventions of standard written English
- locate, apply, and cite effective secondary materials in their own texts
- analyze and interpret texts within the contexts they are written

Foreign language students will be able to:

- demonstrate oral competence with suitable accuracy in pronunciation, vocabulary, and language fluency
- produce written work that is substantive, organized, and grammatically accurate
- accurately read and translate texts in their language of study

Humanities and Fine Arts

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate fluency with procedures of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art practice
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of artistic periods used to interpret works of art including the historical, social, and philosophical contexts
- identify musical elements, take them down at dictation, and perform them at sight
- perform a variety of memorized songs from a standard of at least two foreign languages
- apply performance theory in the analysis and evaluation of performances and texts

Physical and Biological Sciences

Students will be able to:

- apply critical thinking and analytical skills to interpreting scientific data sets
- demonstrate written, visual, and/or oral presentation skills to communicate scientific knowledge
- acquire and synthesize scientific information from a variety of sources
- apply techniques and instrumentation to solve problems

Examples of Learning Goals

Mathematics

Students will be able to:

- translate problems for treatment within a symbolic system
- articulate the rules that govern a symbolic system
- apply algorithmic techniques to solve problems and obtain valid solutions
- judge the reasonableness of obtained solutions

Social Sciences

Students will be able to:

- write clearly and persuasively to communicate their scientific ideas clearly
- test hypotheses and draw correct inferences using quantitative analysis
- evaluate theory and critique research within the discipline

Engineering

Students will be able to:

- explain and demonstrate the role that analysis and modeling play in engineering design and engineering applications more generally
- communicate about systems using mathematical, verbal and visual means
- formulate mathematical models for physical systems by applying relevant conservation laws and assumptions
- choose appropriate probabilistic models for a given problem, using information from observed data and knowledge of the physical system being studied
- choose appropriate methods to solve mathematical models and obtain valid solutions