

Learning Style: Self-Assessment

For each course, your instructor sets learning objectives and skills that they expect you to gain over the course of the semester.

Most college level courses expect you to know basic course information (REMEMBER previously learned information), and to take it a step further by demonstrating that you UNDERSTAND the information, and can APPLY, ANALYZE and CREATE.

Most introductory courses (100/200) focus more on lower order thinking skills (Understand, Apply), while more advanced courses (300/400 – those in your major!) will focus on higher order thinking skills (Analyze, Evaluate, Create):

Bloom's Taxonomy

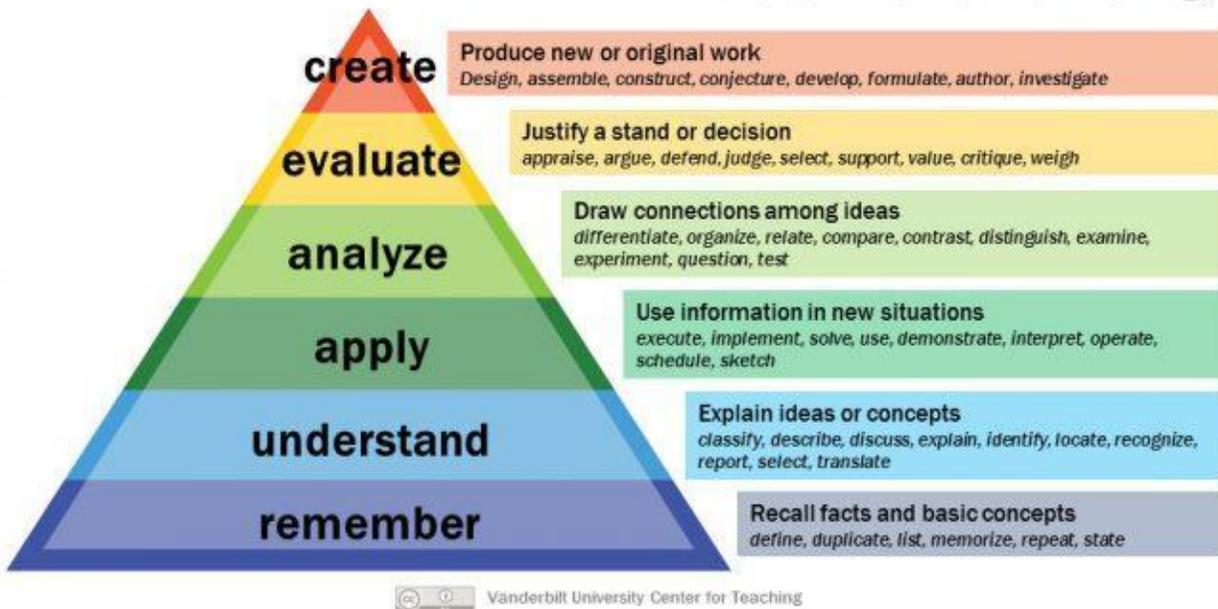


Image retrieved from: <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/>

To help you best accomplish the learning objectives for each course, this assignment is designed to help you evaluate your study habits.

Instructions:

Answer the questions below and submit your answers through Blackboard.

STEP 1: EVALUATE YOUR STUDY HABITS

I have two main methods of studying. In my chemistry and algebra classes I take notes in class and copy the practice problems my professors put on the board. Out of class I make sure to do practice problems to make sure I understand the material. In my sociology and music history classes, I take detailed notes during class and make quizlets focused on the vocabulary for each chapter to study outside of class. Both of these classes also offer supplemental readings and practice quizzes which I use to help give me a better understanding of the material. I am doing very well in algebra. I will credit this to the effort I make in class to copy the teacher's notes and problems she writes on the board. Outside of class I copy the instructions for each module/topic from the online homework. This method has helped me make sure I understand each topic when I am completing the problems and gives me something to look back on when I need clarification. I also do many practice problems for the topics I do not understand.

STEP 2: IDENTIFY AND APPLY NEW LEARNING TECHNIQUES

1. Identify one class where you are experiencing challenges and address the following questions.

A class I am struggling with right now is chemistry. Because it is the class I am having the most trouble with I know that I need to dedicate more time to understanding the material. While I understand the basic concepts, I feel as though I am just doing the problems without actually knowing how I'm getting to my answers or why certain things work. I think it would help to take the time before the lecture to read the chapters we will be going over to give me a better understanding of what my professor is talking about, then after lecture I should go back and clarify any of the material I don't fully understand. I think I do well when it comes to studying for exams. If there is a test review posted I will go through and do problems to make sure I know each of the topics that will be on the exam. Something I do need to work on is looking over my exams before I turn them in. On the last exam, many of the questions I got wrong were because I did not check over them to make sure my answers made sense.

Planning	Monitoring	Evaluating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strategies will I use to study (e.g., study groups, problem sets, evaluating text figures, challenging myself with practice quizzes and/or going to office hours and review sessions)? • How much time do I plan on studying? Over what period of time and for how long each time I sit down do I need to study? • Which aspects of the course material should I spend more or less time on, based on my current understanding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent am I being systematic in my studying of all the material for the exam? • To what extent am I taking advantage of all the learning supports available to me? • Am I struggling with my motivation to study? If so, do I remember why I am taking this course? • Which of my confusions have I clarified? How was I able to get them clarified? • Which confusions remain and how am I going to get them clarified? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about my exam preparation worked well that I should remember to do next time? • What did not work so well that I should not do next time or that I should change? • What questions did I not answer correctly? Why? How did my answer compare with the suggested correct answer? What confusions do I have that I still need to clarify?

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2. A new technique I could use in class is to make concept maps instead of trying to copy the presentation word for word. I think this would help me not get too far behind while taking notes and give me more time to listen to and understand what the professor is saying. A technique I could use outside of class would be to go to tutoring sessions to help understand the topics I am struggling with.