

## Using Bloom's Taxonomy for Studying



Bloom's taxonomy is a way of breaking down your knowledge of a given subject into categories that build on each other. Named after psychologist Benjamin Bloom, the Bloom's Taxonomy used below is a revised version published in 2001. This version puts an emphasis on active verbs to show a student how well they understand a given topic.

In the transition to college there is also a transition in the level of work expected of you. Students in high school are often required to remember, understand, and apply knowledge regularly in exams, papers, and other learning assessments. However, in college you will often be required to also analyze, evaluate, and create knowledge for these assessments.

Below are the categories of Bloom's taxonomy, their definitions, and some question stems you can ask yourself at each level when using this to study.

<b>Taxonomy Level (Low to high)</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Question Stems</b>
<b><i>Remembering</i></b>	Recall facts and basic concepts	What is...? Where is...? How does...happen? List the...in order. Can you name all the...? How would you identify...?
<b><i>Understanding</i></b>	Explain ideas or concepts	How would you explain...in your own words? What is the main idea of...? What facts show...? Can you illustrate...?
<b><i>Applying</i></b>	Use information in new situations	How do you use...? What approach would you use to...? How would you organize this information to show...? Do you know of another instance where...?
<b><i>Analyzing</i></b>	Draw connections among ideas	What are the parts or features of...? How is this related to...? How would you classify...? How would you distinguish between...? What conclusions can you draw from...?
<b><i>Evaluating</i></b>	Justify a stand or decision with evidence	What shows you that...happened? Using what you know, how would you explain...? What criteria would you use to assess...?
<b><i>Creating</i></b>	Produce new or original work	What might be a solution to...? What theory can you come with for...? What kind of experiment could test for...? How would you improve...? How would you elaborate on...?

### Using Bloom's Taxonomy to Study

- For any concept, idea, formula, process, etc. that is difficult for you to grasp, start with questions at the remembering level and work your way up to the creating level.
- Switch frequently between ideas in a single course to build your understanding of how topics connect.
- Create new questions from those provided on assignments or in textbooks by adding or changing things to make them higher level questions.
- When studying with practice problems, ask yourself what pieces of information the problem is asking you to remember or understand. Push yourself to create new practice problems that will call on similar information.

Adapted from *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching, and Assessing* (L.W. Anderson et al., 2001)