WORK-EXPERIENCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Please use these examples as a guide each time you advise your students on writing their learning objectives, and before you approve them on the Learning Contract (blue form.)

A learning objective is a statement about what the student wants to improve, change, or learn that is stated in terms of measurable results and focused on the student’s program of study. Learning objectives are intended to direct the activities of the student during their work experience. Each objective should include 1) What the student plans to accomplish, 2) How the student plans to accomplish it, and 3) The method of evaluation to be used to measure the accomplishment (How will you know if the student was successful?).

EXAMPLES OF WELL-WRITTEN OBJECTIVES:

Create photographic evidence from a fire scene acceptable for use in a court case, using photographic techniques and investigation procedures learned during the internship. Photographs will be examined by a lead investigator using a preestablished rubric who will determine whether they are acceptable for use in court. (What, how, and method of evaluation are all accounted for.)

Demonstrate proficiency in installing duct sensors for air conditioning controls by successfully performing installations on a minimum of three systems. Work supervisor will examine and rate quality of work using a preestablished rubric. (Objective is specific, related to vocational program, and includes what, how, and method of evaluation.)

Successfully sod an average sized yard demonstrating proper ground preparation, sod selection, installation, and water scheduling to ensure an acceptable outcome. Work supervisor will evaluate each step using a rubric and preestablished point system. Another measure of success could read, “One month after the project is finished, the landowner will sign a confirmation that the grass appears green and healthy.”

EXAMPLES OF POORLY WRITTEN OBJECTIVES:

Network to expand future opportunities. (No work-related skill being learned.)

Work in the production department. (What is the specific objective? What is to be accomplished? How (by what means) does the student intend to accomplish it? How will it be measured?)

Learn to work well under pressure. (Not specific. Vocational skill or knowledge involved? How to accomplish this? How to measure success?)

How to be a good host. (How will they learn to be a good host? How will that be measured?)

Get my foot in the door. (This doesn’t represent new learning – this is an end result.)

Programming. (What specifically is to be accomplished? What is the student going to do in order to accomplish it? How will success be measured?)