# Bloom's Taxonomy

Levels of Understanding

Bloom's Taxonomy is a hierarchical classification that is used to classify the different levels of learning. It is best represented as a pyramid where the foundation of learning is shown at the bottom, with increasingly more complex types of learning as you move upward. In high school, you might have been responsible for acquiring basic knowledge of facts and figures, the foundational knowledge. However, college courses require higher levels of learning, such as applying what you know to solve a problem or describe a situation, analyzing something to understand how it works, evaluating something, or creating something new.

Create
Evaluate
Analyze
Apply
Understand
Remember

College Level

High School Level
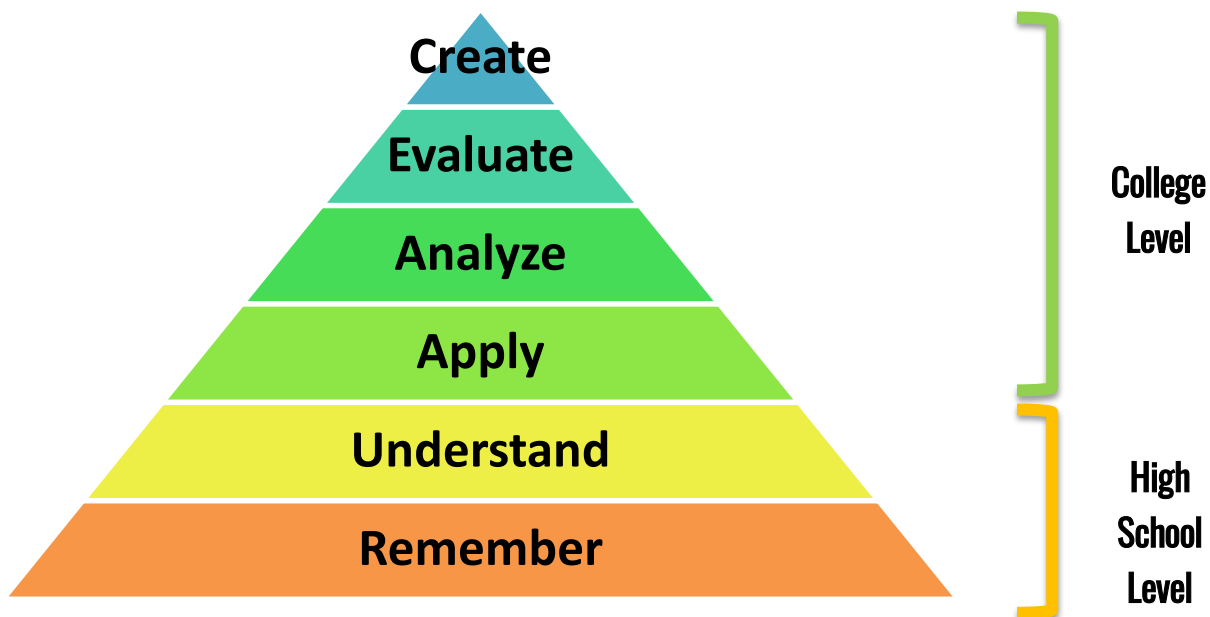
Most students come to college knowing how to study at the foundational level, namely, how to remember and understand concepts. A challenge you face in college is how to change your study strategies so that you can process this foundational knowledge at a different level. By using active study strategies that you may never have used before, you can reach these different levels of knowledge.

It is important to study at the level at which you will be expected to demonstrate competency, so you might need to figure out what your professor is requesting from you. You can do this by reading the syllabus closely and looking at the assignments, by doing a post-test analysis, or by talking to your professor or teaching assistant. A success coach from the Academic Success Center can also help you understand how to approach studying for a specific class.

Key Verbs at the Different Levels

Create	**Combining parts to make a new whole** *Build, combine, formulate, devise, change, modify, construct, produce*
Evaluate	**Judging the value of information or ideas** *Validate, justify, critique, rate, prioritize, select, assess, defend*
Analyze	**Breaking down information into basic parts** *Classify, associate, differentiate, research, categorize, simplify, dissect*
Apply	**Applying the facts, rules, concepts, and ideas** *Practice, implement, calculate, solve, predict, operate, plan*
Understand	**Understanding what the facts mean** *Discuss, paraphrase, show, interpret, outline, review, organize*
Remember	**Recognizing and recalling facts** *Define, list, recite, recognize, match, identify, show, label*

Common Question Stems and How to Prepare

Level of Bloom's	Question Stems		Prep Strategies
Create	How would you construct…? How can you merge…?	Can you make improvements…? What changes would you make to…?	Modify existing ideas/products, use ideas/products in another context, write essays, create presentations
Evaluate	Rate the effectiveness of…? Which is more Important…?	Can you assess the weaknesses of…? Can you validate the source…?	Debate the pros and cons of a topic, defend topics you are unfamiliar with, use criteria to assess arguments
Analyze	How would you simplify…? How would you classify…?	What associations can you find between…?	Find trends in data, prepare and test multiple solutions, create concept maps to dissect topics
Apply	What could cause…? Under what conditions would…?	Predict what would happen if…? How would you solve…?	Use concepts in real world scenarios, troubleshoot problems, predict results based on data
Understand	What do you conclude? What is an example of…?	What is the main idea of…? Can you summarize…?	Discuss ideas with a group, summarize material in your own words, revisit material regularly
Remember	Can you list…? Who is…?	Which is true…? Where is…?	Make list of key concepts, identify examples from real situations, create illustrations to show how it works