TEACHING ASSISTANT’S Guide to What is Learning?

The list represents what a group of experienced TAs at UVic have identified as important aspects of what learning is and how TAs can identify that their students are learning. Not all suggestions below may be applicable in all departments on campus. Please use the list as a guide only.

Learning involves:

- A change in behaviour = outcome
- Accumulation of knowledge and how to apply it
- Integration of new material
- The ability to repeat a process
- Generalizing an idea
- Adapting
- Relating concepts together
- Accepting something as truth
- Understanding a new idea through assimilation
- Absorbing and transforming information into knowledge
- Discrimination and consequences
- Reshaping previously understood notions
- The completion of a cycle
- Changes who you are
- Engaging with information
- Being able to regurgitate
- Steps
- Gaining new information skills
- Discovery

The following list was developed during the Teaching Assistant Consultants’ (TACs) seminars for the academic year, 2009-2010.