

**2013 AHA Instructor Essentials Courses  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
As of May 7, 2013**

**General Information**

**Q: What are the AHA Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: The AHA's Instructor Essentials courses are online, self-directed, discipline-specific courses that teach information needed to instruct classroom courses and conduct skills practice and skills testing sessions for eLearning courses associated with each discipline. Completion of the AHA Instructor Essentials Course is a required step toward becoming an AHA Instructor. It is also a requirement for current Instructors adding a discipline and all AHA Faculty (National, Regional and Training Center Faculty).

**Q: Do the Instructor Essentials courses replace the Core Instructor Course?**

A: Yes. The Core Instructor Course has been discontinued; it was replaced by the Instructor Essentials courses and is no longer a requirement for any member of the AHA Training Network.

**Q: What is covered in each of the AHA Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: These courses cover planning and preparation for courses, instructing courses, conducting written exams (if applicable), skills practice and skills testing and keeping your Instructor status current. They include approximately 30 minutes of general information about instructing AHA courses, followed by course-specific information.

**Q: Why did the AHA create updated Instructor courses?**

A: The AHA developed new Instructor Course materials to aid in providing quality and consistency in all Instructor training. Changes in science and class structure implemented since the release of the previous Instructor Course materials drove the need to develop new materials. The goal in developing new tools was to recognize and respect the time constraints of Instructor candidates and Faculty while not compromising on the need for quality Instructor development. The new courses make great strides in meeting this goal.

**Q: Who is the target audience for the AHA Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: Candidates who wish to become AHA Instructors must complete an AHA discipline-specific Instructor Essentials Course for the discipline that they want to teach (ACLS, BLS, Heartsaver, PALS or PEARS). Also, all AHA Faculty (National, Regional and Training Center Faculty) must complete the Instructor Essentials Course for the discipline(s) for which they are Faculty.

**Q: What are the prerequisites for taking an AHA Instructor Essentials Course?**

A: Before taking this course, candidates must have a current course completion card for the provider course that they wish to teach. They must also have aligned with an AHA Training Center that is accepting new Instructors for that discipline.

**Q: What is the full process for becoming an AHA Instructor?**

A: As listed in the May 7, 2013, Training Memo, "AHA Instructor Requirements," the steps for becoming an AHA Instructor are:

1. Be accepted by an AHA Training Center prior to enrolling in an Instructor Course and have a completed Instructor Candidate Application to file with that Training Center
2. Have current AHA provider status in the discipline for that Instructor Course and be proficient in all the skills of that discipline
3. Successfully complete the discipline-specific Instructor Essentials Online course and print the certificate of completion
4. Successfully complete the discipline-specific classroom Instructor Course
5. Successfully complete being monitored teaching the first course within six months of completing the discipline-specific classroom Instructor Course (Training Center Coordinators can require additional monitoring if needed)

Also, as of January 1, 2012, all Instructors must be registered and confirmed (aligned) on the [AHA Instructor Network](#). Aligning on the AHA Instructor Network will allow the Instructor to obtain and use the Instructor ID# that is required on all course completion cards.

**Q: Does successful completion of an Instructor Essentials Course result in an AHA course completion card?**

A: No. Upon completion of an Instructor Essentials Course, a certificate of completion is available to print and must be presented at the classroom Instructor Course of the corresponding discipline.

**Q: Approximately how long do the AHA Instructor Essentials courses take to complete?**

A: Approximate course completion times are listed below:

- BLS Instructor Essentials – 2 hours
- Heartsaver Instructor Essentials – 2 hours
- ACLS Instructor Essentials – 3 hours
- PALS Instructor Essentials – 3.5 hours
- PEARS Instructor Essentials – 2.5 hours

**Q: Are continuing education (CE/CME) credits offered for the AHA Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: Yes, the following CE is offered. It is recommended that candidates apply for this CE within 30 days of completing the course.

*BLS Instructor Essentials CE Information*

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation - Physicians**

The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 2.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation – Physician Assistants**

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 2.25 hours of Category I credit for completing this program.

**Continuing Education Accreditation - Nurses**

The American Heart Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 2.25 contact hours.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Pharmacists**



The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE Credit: 2.25 Contact Hours or 0.225 CEUs. Universal Program Number: 0256-0000-13-677-H04-P.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS), for 2.25 Educator CEHs, activity number 13-AMHA-F3-0189.

*Heartsaver Instructor Essentials CE Information*

**Continuing Education Accreditation – General Audience**



The American Heart Association has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 1760 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102; (703) 506-3275. In obtaining this approval, the American Heart Association has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of good practice. As a result of their Authorized Provider accreditation status, the American Heart Association is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for its programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard.

The American Heart Association is authorized by IACET to offer 0.2 CEUs for this program.

*ACLS Instructor Essentials CE Information*

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation - Physicians**

The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 3.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation – Physician Assistants**

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 3.00 hours of Category I credit for completing this program.

**Continuing Education Accreditation - Nurses**

The American Heart Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 3.00 contact hours.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Pharmacists**



The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE Credit: 3.00 Contact Hours or 0.300 CEUs. Universal Program Number: 0256-0000-13-676-H01-P.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS), for 3.00 Educator CEHs, activity number 13-AMHA-F3-0188.

*PALS Instructor Essentials CE Information*

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation - Physicians**

The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 3.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation – Physician Assistants**

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 3.25 hours of Category I credit for completing this program.

**Continuing Education Accreditation - Nurses**

The American Heart Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 3.00 contact hours.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Pharmacists**



The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE Credit: 3.25 Contact Hours or 0.325 CEUs. Universal Program Number: 0256-0000-13-678-H04-P.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS), for 3.25 Educator CEHs, activity number 13-AMHA-F3-0192.

*PEARS Instructor Essentials CE Information*

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation - Physicians**

The American Heart Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 2.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Continuing Medical Education Accreditation – Physician Assistants**

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from organizations accredited by ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive a maximum of 2.50 hours of Category I credit for completing this program.

**Continuing Education Accreditation - Nurses**

The American Heart Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 2.50 contact hours.

**Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services**

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS), for 2.50 Educator CEHs, activity number 13-AMHA-F3-0193.

**Training Questions**

**Q: When must new Instructor course materials be used?**

**A:** Beginning August 30, 2013, only the new materials can be used for conducting all AHA Instructor courses.

**Q: Who must take an AHA Instructor Essentials Course?**

**A:** The following groups must complete an AHA Instructor Essentials Course:

- All National, Regional and Training Center Faculty
- All new Instructor candidates
- Instructors who are adding a discipline (e.g. BLS Instructor adding an ACLS Instructor status)

**Q: By when must AHA Faculty complete an Instructor Essentials Course?**

**A:** All AHA Faculty must take the online Instructor Essentials Course before teaching their first course with new materials or performing any course monitoring for courses taught using the new materials.

**Q: Do current Instructors need to take an Instructor Essentials Course?**

**A:** No. AHA does not require current Instructors to complete any components of the new Instructor materials to maintain current Instructor status. However, the Instructor's Training Center may require completion of an Instructor Essentials Course or other components.

Also, AHA Instructors that wish to add a discipline will be required to complete the discipline-specific Instructor Essentials online course.

**Q: Do current Instructors need to take an Instructor Essentials Course every two years to maintain their Instructor status?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Do ACLS EP Instructor candidates need to take an Essentials course?**

**A:** No.

### **Purchasing Information**

**Q: Where can I purchase the AHA's Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: The AHA Instructor Essentials courses can be purchased through OnlineAHA.org or any of AHA's three [Distributors](#) (Channing Bete, Laerdal or WorldPoint). Product numbers for each Instructor Essentials Course are listed below.

- 90-1428 PEARS® Instructor Essentials
- 90-1429 BLS Instructor Essentials
- 90-1430 PALS Instructor Essentials
- 90-1431 Heartsaver® Instructor Essentials
- 90-1432 ACLS Instructor Essentials

### **Technical Issues**

**Q: Whom should I contact if I have problems with the Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: For problems with this product, customers should contact the AHA [Distributor](#) from whom they purchased the product (Channing Bete, Laerdal or WorldPoint).

**Q: What are the minimum system requirements for the AHA Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: The minimum system requirements are listed below:

	Minimum Requirements
Operating System	Windows XP (SP3), Windows 7, Mac OS 10.6
Web Browser	Internet Explorer 7 or higher, Firefox 5, Google Chrome 19 (Both Firefox and Chrome update automatically) Flash 9 Player
Processor	Intel Pentium 4 2.2 GHz, or Intel Core Duo 1.87GHz
Memory	1 GB
Bandwidth	Broadband internet (LAN or Cable)
Screen Resolution	1024x768

**Q: Can a student log in and out of the Instructor Essentials courses?**

A: Yes. Students can log in and out as many times as they choose. To log out, students must click the "Click here to logout" link located at the top of the page after login. When the student is ready to continue training, he/she can return to [OnlineAHA.org](#) and login with his/her registered email and password.

**Q: Can course material be accessed after the online portion is completed?**

A: Yes, information in the Instructor Essentials courses may be accessed for 12 months following initial activation of the course key online.

### **Translations**

**Q: Will AHA Instructor Essentials courses be translated? Into what languages will they be translated? When will translated editions be available?**

A: Currently, the AHA Instructor Essentials courses are not scheduled to be translated. For information on international distribution, please visit the AHA international Web page at [www.heart.org/eccinternational](http://www.heart.org/eccinternational).