



2025 ACLS Product and Course Orientation

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Welcome

The purpose of this American Heart Association Product and Course Orientation is to introduce the new course materials and curriculum updates to the 2025 Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (or ACLS) Course. The information in this document will help you incorporate these updates into your classes and provide your students with a quality learning experience. This course focuses on the ACLS course design and instructor resources.

Valued Feedback

Feedback

The AHA developed course enhancements in direct response to suggestions offered by our valued instructors. Candid feedback from our instructors enables us to better understand what is most helpful to you and equips us to continually improve our training content.

Surveys

Instructors receive periodic surveys to gauge satisfaction, identify areas for improvement, and gather insights and opinions.

Instructor Community

The Instructor Community is an online space to connect, engage, and learn with other AHA Instructors. As part of the community, instructors can ask questions, share best practices for teaching, and discuss helpful insights with their peers. Follow this [link](#) to join the Instructor Community if you haven't already. If you cannot access the link, please contact your regional office.

Course Formats

There are 3 course delivery options for ACLS.

Instructor-led training

Instructor-led training is held in a classroom setting and includes both the instructional portion and skills practice.

HeartCode®

The HeartCode® blended-learning format uses online learning to deliver the cognitive portion of the course. This online technology adapts to the student's knowledge and then presents content specifically to further the student's development. A hands-on session with an instructor or a HeartCode-compatible manikin completes the course requirements.



Resuscitation Quality Improvement®

The Resuscitation Quality Improvement® (RQI®) program is self-directed, simulation-based learning and performance provided through cognitive and hands-on CPR quality-improvement sessions that measure and verify competence. The program employs a low-dose, high-frequency model requiring health care professionals to complete course assignments in short sessions every quarter to achieve and maintain high-quality CPR skills.

Teaching Methods

The ACLS Course uses a variety of teaching methods in an environment that should simulate a real health care setting. Evidence supports the effectiveness of simulation-based education in improving participant knowledge, clinical skills, team performance, leadership, and communication.

Course Flexibility

The AHA allows instructors to tailor the ACLS Course to meet the needs of their students while delivering all course lessons and content and meeting all necessary requirements according to the *ACLS Instructor Manual*.

Local protocol discussions are built into some of the lessons. Instructors can incorporate local protocols related to CPR into the learning stations. For example, students can use local protocols to maximize chest compression fraction as long as they keep the rhythm check at 2-minute intervals.

Video Prework and Precourse Self-Assessment

Video Prework

A feature of the ACLS instructor-led course is the option for prework. If the course agenda you choose includes video prework, students will view the course content through interactive online videos before they enter the classroom. These video lessons include questions throughout to engage the students. The students should then bring their certificate of completion with them for the classroom portion. This format allows more time in the classroom for hands-on skills training.

Precourse Self-Assessment

Regardless of which agenda you plan to use, all students must complete and pass the precourse self-assessment before they enter the classroom. The precourse self-assessment evaluates a student's knowledge before the course to assess proficiency and determine the need for additional review and practice. Students must achieve a score of at least 70% before they take the ACLS Course. They must bring their score report with a passing score as entrance into the course.



Course Agendas

Instructor-led training agendas

Take a moment to review the 7 agendas for the ACLS instructor-led trainings.

- ACLS Course With Video Prework
- ACLS Update Course With Video Prework
- ACLS Course
- ACLS Update Course
- HeartCode ACLS Hands-On Skills Session
- ACLS Course Card and BLS Card With Video Prework
- ACLS Update Course Card and BLS Card With Video Prework

Important

Please note that these agendas are not samples. The topics included in the agenda you choose to follow should be covered in totality.

Different types of agendas

When following the ACLS agendas with video prework, students view the course videos before class. This allows them to be better prepared to participate when they enter the classroom.

When following other ACLS agendas, students are not required to complete video prework. All video lessons are conducted in class along with interactive classroom discussions.

Lesson Plans

Please note that the lesson plans are not examples. Instructors are required to follow the lesson plans as written, covering all of the topics listed.

Learning and Testing Stations

The learning stations in the ACLS Course are required. Making time for hands-on skills practice is essential for emphasizing the importance of teamwork and ensuring that students can perform key actions in a real emergency.

Ensure that students are using the appropriate audiovisual feedback devices in all stations in which CPR is performed. The cases must be run in real time.

Skills Testing Checklists

Use the skills testing checklists to evaluate each student's performance and ensure consistent testing across all AHA courses.

Students must use a CPR feedback device or high-fidelity manikin during skills tests, allowing you to accurately monitor their compression rate, depth, and recoil.

Instructors should time the ventilation rates for the Airway Management Learning and Testing Station as well as all other stations involving cardiac arrest. Please note that a new pass-or-fail criteria has been established for more objective testing.



Your adherence to these testing standards will enhance your students' CPR competency.

Advanced Life Support Manikin

It's crucial that you are using the appropriate equipment when conducting the High-Performance Teams: Cardiac Arrest and Post-Cardiac Arrest Care Learning Station, the High-Performance Teams: Megacode Practice Station, and the High-Performance Teams: Megacode Testing Station. Use a full advanced life support manikin, which has intubation capabilities, offers full advanced airway equipment, uses waveform capnography, simulates starting intravenous and intraosseous access and giving medications, and displays rhythm changes on the monitor.

Provider Manual

The *ACLS Provider Manual* has been updated with the latest AHA Guidelines science, including changes to the Chain of Survival and algorithms. The manual also contains new and revised illustrations.

Instructor Manual

We've updated the *ACLS Instructor Manual* to match the new course. It's important to spend time reviewing the information detailed in each section when you prepare to teach the ACLS course.

Part 1 provides a comprehensive overview of your role as an AHA Instructor as well as the foundational elements of effective resuscitation instruction.

Part 2 provides an overview of the course and outlines the steps you'll take in preparation for teaching.

Part 3 comprises the materials you'll need to teach the course, including course agendas and outlines.

Part 4 outlines your role in the testing process.

Part 5 includes the skills testing checklists and other resources.

Part 6 includes the lesson plans you'll use each time you teach the course.

Online Exams

At the conclusion of the course, exams are administered online, though there may be an occasional need to administer a paper exam. The online version is recommended as the preferred format for exams. Online exams improve test security. This option is also a benefit for instructors' time, because the results are scored automatically. If you are unable to access the online exams, paper exams are available through your International Training Center.

Students must pass the exam with a minimum score of 84%.



HeartCode courses have a cognitive assessment incorporated into the online portion, so an exam does not need to be given to HeartCode students when they attend the hands-on skills session with an instructor at an International Training Center.

Please note that exams must be administered in a proctored setting. More information about exams can be found on Atlas. If you are not able to access Atlas, please contact the International Training Center Coordinator you are aligned with.

Atlas

Atlas

Atlas is the primary resource for instructors to access the latest news, training updates, reference information, and up-to-date resources like the *Program Administration Manual*. Visit: atlas.heart.org. If you cannot access Atlas, contact your regional office or International Training Center Coordinator.

Notice of Courses

Inform your International Training Center of courses open to the public so they can send inquiries for classes to you. eCards

Your students will complete an online evaluation before they claim their course completion card for Atlas users only. eCard Reports are available on Atlas for tracking student completions.

ECC Beat

The *ECC Beat* is your resource for leading scientific content focused on hot topics in resuscitation and emergency cardiovascular care. Every issue of this eNewsletter includes Health & Wellness Observances, Events & Education, Tips & Tech, and Compliance Corner.

If you're not currently receiving the *ECC Beat*, take a moment to sign up now. To do so, sign in to atlas.heart.org and navigate to your user profile. From there, select Edit on the Additional Information tab, and then check the box under Subscription/Newsletters.

The Heartbeat International Newsletter

The Heartbeat International eNewsletter delivers cutting-edge scientific content on key topics in resuscitation, emergency cardiovascular care, and health care quality improvement. *The Heartbeat* highlights the latest science guidelines and research, international resuscitation initiatives, relevant conferences, and advancements in quality improvement efforts.

If you're not currently receiving *The Heartbeat* take a moment to sign up now. To do so, check out our [news & events webpage](#) or [fill out this form](#).