

2015 Guidelines Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor Essentials Blended Learning FAQ



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

As of March 15, 2017

Q: What is the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course?

A: The BLS Instructor Essentials Course is designed to prepare instructor candidates to teach AHA Instructor-led and blended learning courses. This course educates instructor candidates on how to adequately use AHA Instructor teaching materials, ensure that students meet learning objectives, offer student coaching skills, provide an objective skills performance evaluation, and follow AHA Instructor and course policies. The course covers core content and discipline-specific content required to teach AHA courses.

Q: What is the format of the BLS Essentials Course?

A: The BLS Instructor Essentials Course is taught in a blended learning format. AHA BLS Instructor candidates must complete the online portion, followed by the hands-on session conducted by BLS Training Center Faculty.

Q: Why did the AHA create updated Instructor courses?

A: The AHA's Instructor courses and materials aid in providing quality and consistency in all Instructor training. Changes in science and education from the *2015 AHA Guidelines Update for CPR and ECC*, and new courses implemented since the release of the previous AHA Instructor materials drove the need to develop new courses. In developing new AHA Instructor training, the AHA's goal was to recognize and respect the time constraints of Instructor candidates and Faculty while not compromising on the need for quality Instructor development.

Target Audience

Q: Who is the target audience for the AHA's BLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: This course must be completed by candidates who wish to become AHA BLS Instructors.

Additionally, the following roles must complete the online portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course:

- All AHA BLS Faculty (Regional and Training Center) who teach AHA BLS Instructor courses.
- Current AHA Instructors who are adding the BLS discipline

Q: What are the prerequisites for taking the BLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: Before taking this course, instructor candidates must have aligned with an AHA BLS Training Center that is accepting new Instructors and have a completed Instructor Application on file with their accepting BLS Training Center. Candidates must also have a current BLS Provider course completion card. While AHA BLS Instructors also teach Heartsaver courses, BLS instructor candidates do not need to have a Heartsaver course completion card.

Course Completion Requirements

Q: Does successful completion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course result in receipt of an AHA BLS Instructor card?

A: No. Completion of the AHA BLS Instructor Essentials Course is one of the requirements to become a BLS Instructor. To earn an AHA BLS Instructor card, instructor candidates must complete all steps of the process for becoming an AHA BLS Instructor.

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

A: To become an AHA BLS Instructor, instructor candidates must

1. Be accepted by an AHA BLS Training Center before enrolling in a BLS Instructor Essentials Course and have a completed Instructor Candidate Application on file with the accepting Training Center
2. Have a current AHA BLS Provider course completion card and be proficient in all BLS skills
3. Successfully complete the BLS Instructor Essentials Course, including both the online portion and classroom/hands-on session
4. Successfully be monitored teaching within 6 months of completing the hands-on session of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course (Training Center Coordinators may require additional monitoring, if needed)

Also, all AHA Instructors must register and be confirmed on the [AHA Instructor Network](#) to receive their AHA Instructor ID #, which must be used to issue course completion cards.

Q: Is there an exam instructor candidates must complete? When is the exam administered? What is score must be achieved on the exam?

A: Yes. The BLS Instructor Essentials Course exam is administered during the classroom portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course. BLS instructor candidates must achieve a score of 84 percent or higher on this exam to successfully complete the BLS Instructor Essentials Course.

Course Length

Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course?

A: Depending on the student's experience, the online portion of this course takes approximately 2 hours to complete.

Q: What is the length of the classroom portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course?

A: Following the sample agenda included in the BLS Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide, the time for the classroom portion led by BLS Faculty is approximately 5 hours, without breaks.

BLS Instructor Essentials Course Materials

Q: What materials are available for the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course?

A: Materials include the following:

Instructor Candidate Materials:

- BLS Instructor Essentials – AHA product #15-1420; available through AHA ECC Distributors
- BLS Instructor Candidate Workbook – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to BLS instructor candidates (via the [AHA Instructor Network](#)) or accessible in the Resources section of BLS Instructor Essentials Online

BLS Faculty Materials:

- BLS Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide – free resource available to AHA TCCs to BLS Faculty (via the [AHA Instructor Network](#))
- BLS/Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Course DVD – AHA product #15-1067; available through AHA ECC Distributors

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BLS Instructor Essentials Online Portion

Q: What is BLS Instructor Essentials Online?

A: BLS Instructor Essentials Online is the self-directed, online portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course. It covers the components of the instructor cycle, including Prepare, Teach, Test & Remediate, Close, and Keep Current. It includes core information about instructing AHA courses, followed by course-specific information.

Q: What are the features of BLS Instructor Essentials Online?

A: Following are features of the online portion:

- Self-paced, accessible wherever Internet access is available
- Presented in two parts: Core and BLS; both must be completed
- Includes interactive exercises and videos
- Includes Resource Center with access to AHA's Program Administration Manual, the BLS Instructor Candidate Workbook, the BLS Instructor Essentials Classroom Checklist, and quick links to the AHA Instructor Network and cpr.heart.org
- Certificate of completion available to print when the online portion has been completed successfully; certificate must be presented for access to the hands-on, Faculty-led session
- Students have access to all information in the online portion for 24 months after activation of their key to help reinforce what they have learned
- Includes audio and subtitles for any students who may have a visual or auditory disability
- Continuing education credits available

Q: How can BLS Faculty and Training Center Coordinators verify the authenticity of BLS Instructor Essentials Online certificates of completion?

A: Certificates can be verified at https://www.onlineaha.org/verify_certificate.

Q: Can an instructor candidates log in and out of BLS Instructor Essentials Online?

A: Yes. Candidates can enter and exit a course as often as necessary. If they are active in the course for 30 minutes, their user session will expire. When this happens, a message will notify candidates their session expired. Candidates will simply log in again and return to the course, where they will see all of their completed exercises have been saved.

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

A: Yes, candidates may access all material included in BLS Instructor Essentials Online for 24 months following initial activation of their course key.

Q: If a customer has remaining 2010 Guidelines BLS Instructor Essentials Online keys, will they be transitioned to new 2015 Guidelines version keys?

A: For customers who have unused/unactivated keys for the 2010 Guidelines version of BLS Instructor Essentials Online, the AHA will automatically transition any unused/unactivated keys to the new 2015 Guidelines version BLS Instructor Essentials Online overnight on May 22, 2017.

Information for BLS Faculty Teaching the BLS Instructor Essentials Classroom (Hands-on) Portion

Q: Who can conduct the classroom/hands-on portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: The classroom/hands-on portion of BLS Instructor Essentials may be taught by current AHA BLS Training Center or Regional Faculty. Prior to teaching the new course, AHA BLS Faculty who provide BLS Instructor training must complete the online portion of BLS Instructor Essentials.

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Q: By when must AHA BLS Faculty complete the online portion of BLS Instructor Essentials?
A: All BLS AHA Faculty who teach BLS Instructor courses must complete the online portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Course before teaching their first course with new materials or performing any course monitoring for courses taught using the new materials.

Q: When must AHA BLS Training Centers and BLS Faculty begin using 2015 Guidelines version BLS Instructor Essentials Course materials for BLS Instructor training?
A: All AHA BLS Faculty must be using new BLS Instructor Essentials Course materials to teach AHA BLS Instructor Essentials Courses by May 16, 2017.

Continuing Education

Q: Does the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course offer continuing education (CE/CME)?
A: Yes.

The following CE is available upon successful completion of the online portion:

The American Heart Association is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

AMA Credit Designation Statement – Physicians

The American Heart Association designates this enduring material for a maximum of 1.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AAPA Credit Acceptance Statement – 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 0.50 hour of Category I credit for completing this program.

AANP Credit Acceptance Statement – Nurse Practitioners

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* from organizations accredited by the ACCME.

*****AMA Credit must be claimed within 6 months of participation. CME/CE will no longer be available to claim after the 6 months claiming period.***

ANCC Credit Designation Statement – Nurses

The maximum number of hours awarded for this CE activity is 1.25 contact hours.

*****ANCC Credit must be claimed within 6 months of participation. CME/CE will no longer be available to claim after the 6 months claiming period.***

ACPE Credit Designation Statement – Pharmacists

ACPE Credit: 1.25 Contact Hours. Universal Program Number: 0256-0000-16-915-H05-P

*****ACPE Credit must be claimed within 30 days of participation. ACPE credit will no longer be available to claim after the 30-day period has elapsed.***

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Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE), for 1.25 Educator CEH, activity number 16-AMHA-F3-0344.

***CAPCE credit must be claimed within 6 months of attendance. CME/CE credit will no longer be available to claim for this activity after the 6-month claiming period.*

The following CE is available upon successful completion of the classroom/hands-on portion:

Continuing Education Accreditation – Emergency Medical Services

This continuing education activity is approved by the American Heart Association, an organization accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE), for 5.00 Advanced CEHs, activity number 17-AMHA-F2-0011.

By claiming CAPCE credit, the claimant acknowledges the following: I understand that the American Heart Association as a requirement of CAPCE accreditation will submit a record of my course completions to the CAPCE AMS. I further understand that my course completion records may be accessed by or shared with such regulators as state EMS offices, training officers, and NREMT on a password-protected, need-to-know basis. In addition, I understand that I may review my record of CAPCE-accredited course completions by contacting CAPCE.

***CAPCE credit must be claimed within 6 months of participation. CME/CE credit will no longer be available once the six-month credit claiming period has elapsed.*

Customer/Technical Support Information

Q: What are the minimum technical requirements for BLS Instructor Essentials Online?

A: Minimum technical specifications are available at https://www.onlineaha.org/technical_requirements.

Q: Whom should I contact for technical assistance with BLS Instructor Essentials Course materials?

A: Customers may contact the AHA ECC Customer Support at 888-242-8883 for technical assistance. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Central Time.

Q: Whom should I contact with questions related to the administration of the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course?

A: For questions about course administration, you may contact your AHA Account Manager or Account Specialist. AHA Instructors should always consult their TCC as their first point of contact. TCCs may also contact AHA TCC Support at tccsupport@heart.org.