

2011 Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Classroom Course & Materials Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As of July 21, 2011

Course Information

Q: What is the Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Course?

A: The AHA's ACLS Course has been updated to reflect new science in the *2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC)*. This classroom, video-based, Instructor-led course builds on the foundation of lifesaving BLS for Healthcare Providers skills, emphasizing the importance of continuous, high-quality CPR. This advanced course highlights the importance of team dynamics and communication, systems of care and immediate post-cardiac arrest care. ACLS also covers airway management and related pharmacology.

Q: What is different about the 2011 ACLS versus the 2006 version?

A: The 2011 course includes key changes in advanced cardiovascular life support, reflecting the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC*. Other key changes include:

- Immediate post-cardiac arrest algorithm now included
- Advanced airway adjuncts section now has four options including laryngeal mask airway, esophageal-tracheal tube, endotracheal tube; course content includes information on the laryngeal tube
- Provides additional in- and out-of-hospital scenarios, including six new "putting it all together" scenarios, with a debriefing tool for each.
- Bag-mask ventilation now a required skills test for all ACLS students
- Enforces team dynamics and effective communication

Q: Who is the target audience for this product and course?

A: ACLS is designed for healthcare professionals who either direct or participate in the management of cardiopulmonary arrest or other cardiovascular emergencies. This includes personnel in emergency response, emergency medicine, intensive care and critical care units such as physicians, nurses, and paramedics, as well as others who need an ACLS course completion card for job or other requirements.

Q: Specifically, what content is taught in ACLS?

A: Specific ACLS content is listed below:

- 1-Rescuer CPR and AED use
- Science Overview (Update Course)
- Team Dynamics
- BLS and ACLS Surveys
- Immediate Post-Cardiac Arrest Care
- Airway Management/Respiratory Arrest
- Peri-arrest Rhythms (Tachycardia, Bradycardia)
- Arrest Rhythms (VF, PVT, PEA, Asystole)
- Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS)
- Stroke
- Megacode treatment

Q: What is the format of the ACLS classroom course?

A: ACLS is a classroom-based, Instructor-led course. In the course, skills are taught in large-group sessions and small-group learning and testing stations where case-based scenarios are presented in the course video. The course includes skills practice and testing.

This course uses a recommended ratio of 6 students to 1 instructor to 1 manikin or station. The CPR and AED and Management of Respiratory Arrest stations require 1 instructor and 2 manikins for 6 students per station.

Q: Which skills are practiced during the ACLS Course?

A: Skills to be practiced during the course include:

- BLS and ACLS Surveys
- Airway Management
- Rhythm Recognition
- Defibrillation
- IV Access (information only)
- Use of Medications
- Cardioversion
- Transcutaneous Pacing
- 1-rescuer CPR and AED
- Team Resuscitation Concept (Team Leader and Team Member)
- Immediate Post-Cardiac Arrest Care

Q: What are the course completion requirements for ACLS?

A: For successful course completion, students must demonstrate skills competency in all learning stations, pass the CPR-AED skills test, bag-mask ventilation skills test, megacode test and pass the written test with a score of 84% or higher.

Q: Does successful completion of the ACLS Course result in an AHA course completion card?

A: Yes. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the ACLS course will receive an AHA ACLS Provider course completion card, valid for two years.

Q: Are there prerequisites for taking the ACLS Course?

A: Before taking ACLS, students should have a mastery of BLS skills. They should also be able to recognize various heart rhythms, be familiar with different types of airway management tools and their use and have knowledge of the drugs commonly used to treat cardiovascular irregularities.

To help students adequately prepare for the ACLS Course, the AHA highly recommends that each student complete the online ACLS Precourse Assessment, available through the AHA Student Website (www.heart.org/eccstudent). To access the AHA Student Website, students and Instructors will need an access code, which is included on page ii of each ACLS Provider Manual and ACLS Instructor Manual.

Q: Are continuing education (CE/CME) credits offered for the ACLS classroom-based course?

A: The AHA is currently in the process of completing requirements to be able to provide CECBEMS CEH credit for classroom-based ACLS provider courses. We will announce this when available.

Because the continuing education approval process for nurses and physicians is much more involved, CME/CE credit for these professions will not be available through the AHA at this time.

Continuing education credit will continue to be offered for multiple professions for completion of the *HeartCode® ACLS Part 1* program.

Q: Approximately how long does the ACLS Course take to complete?

A: Approximate course completion times are listed below. Times are based on a recommended ratio of 6 students to 1 instructor to 1 manikin or station (NOTE: the CPR and AED and Management of Respiratory Arrest stations require 1 instructor and 2 manikins for 6 students per station). Using different ratios will result in increased course completion times.

- Full course: 10-12 hours depending on amount of break time
- Update (renewal) course: 5-6 hours depending on amount of break time

Course Materials

Q: What new materials are available for the ACLS Course?

A: Materials for the classroom course, updated to reflect the *2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC*, include:

Student/Provider Materials:

- 90-1014 ACLS Provider Manual, includes ACLS Pocket Reference Card Set (90-1012)
- 90-1012 ACLS Pocket Reference Card Set (set of 2)

Instructor Materials:

- 90-1009 ACLS DVD
- 90-1011 ACLS Instructor Manual, includes Lesson Maps, Instructor CD, divider page tabs
- 90-1041 ACLS Instructor Package, includes:
 - ACLS Provider Manual (90-1014)
 - ACLS Instructor Manual (90-1011)
 - 2 ACLS DVDs (90-1009)
 - ACLS Posters (90-1013)
 - ACLS Emergency Crash Cart Cards (90-1010)
 - Stopwatch

Supplementary Materials:

- 90-1010 ACLS Emergency Crash Cart Cards (set of 4)
- 90-1013 ACLS Posters (set of 9)
- 90-1024 Suspected Stroke Algorithm/Stroke Scale Card (package of 25)

Cards:

- 90-1805 ACLS Provider Course Completion Card (2-card mailer)
- 90-1806 ACLS Provider Course Completion Card (3-card sheet)
- 90-1804 ACLS Instructor Card (3-card sheet)
- 90-1803 ACLS Instructor Card (2-card mailer)

Q: What is included on the Instructor CD that comes with the ACLS Instructor Manual?

A: The CD includes the following key resources:

- Learning Station and Megacode Testing Scenarios
- Precourse Materials (equipment list, sample agendas, precourse letter)
- Lesson Maps for full and update courses, as well as parts 2 and 3 of HeartCode ACLS
- Skills Testing Checklists (for classroom-based ACLS Course and parts 2 and 3 of HeartCode ACLS)
- Student Practice Sheet for Remediation

Q: Will the contents of the Instructor CD also be posted to the [AHA Instructor Network](#)?

A: Forms, checklists and some other tools found on the Instructor CD are also posted to the AHA Instructor Network under Courses > ACLS > Course Resources. Lesson Maps will not be posted to the Instructor Network.

Q: What materials must a student have to take the ACLS classroom course?

A: To take the ACLS Course, each student must have access to his/her own ACLS Provider Manual before, during and after class.

Q: Is there a student CD included in the ACLS Provider Manual?

A: No, the 2011 provider manual does not include a student CD. Information for students is covered in the provider manual and on the ACLS student website.

Q: Is there a student website for this course?

A: Yes, AHA has created the AHA Student Website at www.heart.org/eccstudent, which allows students and Instructors access to the online ACLS Precourse Assessment tool and many additional reference materials to help them successfully prepare for and complete the ACLS Course. To access the AHA Student Website, students and Instructors will need an access code, which is included on page ii of each ACLS Provider Manual and ACLS Instructor Manual.

Teaching ACLS

Q: Who can teach the ACLS classroom course?

A: AHA ACLS Instructors may teach this course.

Q: What materials are necessary to teach ACLS?

A: To teach the ACLS Course, ACLS Instructors, at a minimum, must have an ACLS Instructor Manual, an ACLS DVD and a stopwatch for testing. However, for added convenience and cost savings, it is recommended that Instructors have the full ACLS Instructor Package, which contains the following tools:

- o ACLS Provider Manual (90-1014)
- o ACLS Instructor Manual (90-1011)
- o 2 ACLS DVDs (90-1009)
- o ACLS Posters (90-1013)
- o ACLS Emergency Crash Cart Cards (90-1010)
- o Stopwatch

Also, 2011 ACLS course completion cards must be issued. AHA course completion cards are issued through the Training Center with which the Instructor is aligned.

Q: How will ACLS Instructors be updated on the new curriculum and materials for the ACLS Courses?

A: AHA has created a “product orientation” to introduce all ACLS Instructors to the new ACLS curriculum and materials. This product orientation is a Windows Media Player or QuickTime presentation available through the AHA Instructor Network. It is not mandatory that Instructors review this orientation or provide documentation to their Training Centers; however it is highly recommended.

Purchasing Materials/Finding Classes:

Q: Where/how can I purchase new ACLS Course materials?

A: AHA ECC training products can be purchased from any of ECC’s three [Distributors](#) (Channing Bete, Laerdal, WorldPoint).

Q: How do I find an ACLS classroom course in my local area?

A: To find a class near you, please use the ECC Class Connector tool at www.heart.org/eccclassconnector.

Technical Issues

Q: Who should I contact if I have problems with ACLS materials?

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

Translations

Q: Will ACLS be translated? Into what languages will it be translated? When will translated editions be available?

A: The ACLS Course materials are scheduled to be translated into Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, English International, French, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. A timeline for these translations is still being developed.

For information on international distribution please visit the AHA ECC international web page at:
<http://www.heart.org/eccinternational>.