

# 2020 AHA Guidelines Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses FAQ



*As of March 4, 2021*

**Q: What are the AHA's Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses?**

A: The AHA's Instructor Essentials Courses are designed to prepare instructor candidates to teach AHA Instructor-led and blended learning courses. These courses educate 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 courses cover core content and discipline-specific content required to teach AHA courses.

The 2020 AHA Guidelines Instructor Essentials Courses include:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor Essentials
- Heartsaver® Instructor Essentials
- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Instructor Essentials
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Instructor Essentials

**Q: What is the format of the Instructor Essentials Courses?**

A: The Instructor Essentials Courses are delivered in a blended learning format. AHA instructor candidates must complete the online portion, followed by the in-person, classroom session conducted by AHA Faculty.

**Q: Why did the AHA create updated Instructor Essentials 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 2020 AHA Guidelines for CPR and ECC, and new courses released to reflect 2020 Guidelines 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 AHA Faculty while not compromising on the need for high-quality AHA Instructor development.

## Target Audience

**Q: Who is the target audience for the AHA's Instructor Essentials Courses?**

A: AHA Instructor Essentials must be completed by candidates who wish to become AHA Instructors. Additionally, the following roles must complete the online portion of the Instructor Essentials Course:

- All AHA Faculty who teach AHA Instructor courses
- Current AHA Instructors who are adding a new discipline

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

A: Before taking this course, instructor candidates must have aligned with an AHA Training Center offering the discipline they wish to teach and that is accepting new Instructors. They must have a

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completed Instructor Application on file with their accepting Training Center. Candidates must also have a current provider course completion card in the discipline they wish to teach.

## Course Completion Requirements

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

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

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

A: To become an AHA Instructor, instructor candidates must

1. Be accepted by an AHA Training Center before enrolling in an Instructor Essentials Course and have a completed Instructor Candidate Application on file with the accepting Training Center
2. Have current provider status and be proficient in all the skills of that discipline
3. Successfully complete an Instructor Essentials Course (both the online and classroom/hands-on portions). Students must print the certificate of completion from the online portion for entry into the classroom/hands-on portion.
4. Successfully be monitored teaching their first course within six months of completing the discipline-specific classroom Instructor Course (Training Center Coordinators can require additional monitoring if needed)
5. Register on the AHA Instructor Network and be confirmed by their primary Training Center for issuance of their Instructor ID number, which must be used to issue provider eCards

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

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

**Q: Is the Instructor Essentials Course exam available online?**

A: No, currently the course exam is only available as a paper/print exam.

## Course Length

**Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of the AHA's Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses?**

A: Depending on the student's experience, the online portion takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

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**Q: What is the length of the classroom portion of the Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses?**

**A:** Following the sample agendas included in the Instructor Essentials Faculty Guides, approximate time for the classroom portion led by Faculty are as follows:

- Heartsaver - 4.75 hours
- BLS - 5 hours
- ACLS - 7 hours
- PALS - 7 hours

## **Instructor Essentials Course Materials**

**Q: What materials are available for the AHA's Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses?**

**A:** Materials include the following:

### **BLS Instructor Candidate Materials:**

- BLS Instructor Essentials Online – AHA product 20-1420
- Instructor Candidate Workbook – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to BLS instructor candidates (via the AHA Instructor Network)

### **BLS Faculty Materials:**

- BLS Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to BLS Faculty (via the AHA Instructor Network)
- BLS Instructor Essentials Course DVD – AHA product 20-1134
- BLS Instructor Essentials Digital Video – AHA product 20-1431 – **COMING SOON**

### **Heartsaver Instructor Candidate Materials:**

- Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Online – AHA product 20-1418
- Instructor Candidate Workbook – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to Heartsaver instructor candidates (via the AHA Instructor Network)

### **Heartsaver Faculty Materials:**

- Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to BLS Faculty (via the AHA Instructor Network)
- Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Course DVD – AHA product 20-1133
- Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Digital Video – AHA product 20-1430 – **COMING SOON**

### **ACLS Instructor Candidate Materials:**

- ACLS Instructor Essentials Online – AHA product 20-1419
- Instructor Candidate Workbook – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to ACLS instructor candidates (via the AHA Instructor Network)

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## ACLS Faculty Materials:

- ACLS Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to ACLS Faculty (via the AHA Instructor Network)
- ACLS Instructor Essentials Course DVD – AHA product 20-1135
- ACLS Instructor Essentials Digital Video – AHA product 20-1432 – **COMING SOON**

## PALS Instructor Candidate Materials:

- PALS Instructor Essentials Online – AHA product 20-1417
- PALS Instructor Candidate Workbook – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to PALS instructor candidates (via the AHA Instructor Network)

## PALS Faculty Materials:

- PALS Instructor Essentials Faculty Guide – free resource available to AHA TCCs to provide to PALS Faculty (via the AHA Instructor Network)
- PALS Instructor Essentials Course DVD – AHA product 20-1136
- PALS Instructor Essentials Digital Video – AHA product 20-1433 – **COMING SOON**

## Instructor Essentials Online Portion

### Q: What is Instructor Essentials Online?

A: Instructor Essentials Online is the self-directed, online portion of the Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course. It includes two modules: core and discipline specific.

The core module covers the important steps instructors must follow, including Prepare, Teach, Test & Remediate, Close, and Keep Current. It includes core information about instructing all AHA courses, important instructor competencies, and program administration information.

The BLS module covers in-depth, course-specific information for the following courses:

- BLS Provider Instructor-Led Training (ILT)
- HeartCode BLS Blended Learning
- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver First Aid ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning

The Heartsaver module covers in-depth, course-specific information for the following courses:

- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver First Aid ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid CPR AED ILT and Blended Learning
- Heartsaver Bloodborne Pathogens

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The ACLS module covers in-depth, course-specific information for the following courses:

- ACLS Provider ILT
- HeartCode ACLS Blended Learning

The PALS module covers in-depth, course-specific information for the following courses:

- PALS Provider ILT
- HeartCode PALS Blended Learning

**Q: What are the features of 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 discipline specific; instructor candidates must complete both parts
- Includes interactive exercises and videos
- 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 to help reinforce what they have learned
- Includes audio and subtitles for any students who may have a visual or auditory disability

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

A: Certificates can be verified at [https://elearning.heart.org/verify\\_certificate](https://elearning.heart.org/verify_certificate).

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

A: Yes. Candidates can enter and exit a course as often as necessary. Candidates will simply log in again and return to the course, where they will see all 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 Instructor Essentials Online for 24 months following initial activation of their course.

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

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

A: The classroom/hands-on portion of Instructor Essentials may be taught by current AHA Faculty. Prior to teaching new courses, AHA Faculty who provide Instructor training must complete the online portion of Instructor Essentials for their specific discipline.

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**Q: By when must AHA Faculty complete the online portion of Instructor Essentials?**

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

## **Continuing Education**

**Q: Do the Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Courses offer continuing education (CE)?**

**A:** Currently, there is no CE available for the AHA's Instructor Essentials Courses.