

Advanced Stroke Life Support® (ASLS®) Blended Learning Course FAQs

As of July 31, 2024

Below is a list of topics covered in this FAQs document. If you would like to skip to a topic and view its set of questions, then please click on the topic and you'll be taken to the questions.

- [Course Materials](#)
- [Course Format and Skills Testing](#)
- [Instructor Training](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [How to Apply to Add ASLS to Your Training Center](#)
- [Next Steps After the Completion of ASLS Instructor Training](#)
- [LMS Considerations](#)

Course Information

Q: What is the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course educates healthcare professionals to identify, evaluate, and manage patients with stroke. The ASLS Course was co-developed by the American Heart Association and The University of Miami's Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education.

Q: Who is the intended audience for the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: This course is appropriate for all healthcare providers involved in the management of acute stroke patients. Three course tracks are available for students to learn how to assess and manage stroke emergencies: 1) prehospital; 2) in-hospital; and 3) prehospital and in-hospital.

Q: How does the ASLS Blended Learning Course work?

A: In this blended learning course, students will complete one of three tracks in the online portion of the course (prehospital; in-hospital; or prehospital and in-hospital). Upon completion of the online portion, they will receive a certificate of completion. Students will then present this certificate of completion to gain entry into an in-person hands-on skills session led by an ASLS Instructor affiliated with an ASLS Training Center (TC). After all required components are complete, students will receive an ASLS Provider eCard.

Q: Is there an Instructor-led version of the AHA ASLS Course being offered? Is there a plan to do this type of course?

A: No. The only offering for the AHA ASLS Course is the ASLS Blended Learning Course.

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Provider?

A: To become an ASLS Provider, students must be proficient in their Basic Life Support (BLS) skills, and it is highly recommended that they also are proficient in their ACLS skills. However, there is no prerequisite that students have a current BLS or ACLS Provider card.



Q: How long will a provider course completion card be valid for this course?

A: Upon course completion, an AHA ASLS Provider eCard will be issued for the track of the course that the student completed. This course completion card will be valid for two years.

Q: Will the ASLS Provider eCard note the specific track completed in the online portion, or will it be the same regardless of track?

A: Yes. There is a section on the eCard where the specific track completed will be populated.

Q: Will the ASLS Instructor eCard note the specific track completed in the online portion, or will it be the same regardless of track?

A: Yes, the ASLS Instructor eCard will indicate which track was completed.

Please note: After the ASLS Instructor eCard is claimed by the Instructor, it will take approximately 30 days for the Instructor ID number to appear on the eCard. The ASLS Instructor eCard is still an active, valid card without the Instructor ID number. As a reminder, the Instructor ID number can also be viewed when the Instructor logs into their account on Atlas.

Course Materials

Q: What are the prices for the new ASLS Blended Learning Course materials?

A: The pricing for ASLS Provider and ASLS Instructor digital materials can be viewed on the [AHA Professional Education Hub](#).

Q: Are there ASLS print materials available?

A: Print versions of these materials are currently available to purchase through ShopCPR. The ASLS print materials will ultimately transition over to the AHA Professional Education Hub when fulfillment capabilities are completed, streamlining all ASLS materials to make them accessible through one site. Visit [ShopCPR](#) to view the list of print materials and pricing.

Costs for in-person, hands-on skills sessions and the in-person portion are set by the TC offering the course.

Q: Is a provider/student eBook available for download?

A: No, access to the Provider Manual eBook and Digital Reference Guide is included under the Resources section in the online provider course. The Reference Guide is the preferred text as it summarizes key concepts, algorithms, and scales and is available for individual purchase in print and eBook format.

Q: What are the components of the skills evaluation portion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: The skills evaluation consists of three parts: a stroke scale demonstration, a stroke syndrome evaluation, and a stroke simulation scenario.

In-person skills tests will challenge learners to apply the skills and knowledge obtained from the online portion to correctly perform neurologic exams, diagnose, and manage patients with stroke. Offering education on the most common stroke screening and severity tools, skills tests can be tailored to fit the tools used in local protocols.

Q: Are Continuing Education (CE) credits available for this course?

A: Yes, see below for credit hours for Physicians, EMS, Nurses, and Respiratory Therapists:

CONTINUING EDUCATION

ASLS® Online: Prehospital and In-Hospital Provider

- Physicians/AMA: 4.5
- Nurses/ANCC: 8.0
- RT/AARC: 6.25
- EMS/CAPCE: 6.75

ASLS® Online: Prehospital Provider

- EMS/CAPCE: 4.25

ASLS® Online: In-Hospital Provider

- Physicians/AMA: 4.25
- Nurses/ANCC: 5.25
- RT/AARC: 4.75

ASLS® Online: Instructor Essentials Online

- Physicians/AMA: .25
- Nurses/ANCC: .25
- EMS/CAPCE: .25

ASLS® Prehospital and In-Hospital Provider

- Hands-on Session
- EMS/CAPCE: 1.25

ASLS® Prehospital Provider Hands-On Session

- EMS/CAPCE: 1.00

ASLS® Instructor Essentials Hands-On Session

- EMS/CAPCE: 6.25

Course Format and Skills Testing

Q: How do students access the online portion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: Once a student is either issued or purchases a license for the online portion of the blended learning course, the student will go to the AHA Professional Education Hub to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Instructors at the Professional Education Hub Store.

Q: What is the approximate length of the online portion of the course?

A: Students will complete the self-paced, online portion of the course, which will prepare them for the in- person skills evaluation session with an AHA ASLS Instructor. Because the online portion is adaptive, meaning that students follow a learning path personalized by their own inputs and self-reported confidence level, the time it takes to complete the online portion depends on the student's level of knowledge. Estimated completion times range as follows:

- ASLS Online: Prehospital Provider: 3-6 hours
- ASLS Online: In-Hospital Provider: 4-8 hours
- ASLS Online: Prehospital & In-Hospital Provider: 5-9 hours

Q: How can one determine how long an individual participant took to complete the online course?

A: The student completing the online module can view the length of time it took them to complete the course on the course dashboard.

Q: What is the approximate length of time for the skills session portion of the course?

A: The in-person skills session should take approximately one hour per student. Students needing remediation will require additional time for their in-person sessions.

Q: How long does a student have to complete the hands-on portion of the course after completing the online module?

A: There is no time limit to complete the hands-on session after completing the online module; however, it is recommended that the in-person session be completed soon after the online portion to ensure cognitive knowledge is retained.

Q: What is the student-to-instructor ratio for the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: The student-to-instructor ratio is 1:1 for the skills evaluation component. However, TCs may schedule students in groups if they can set up multiple testing stations through which students rotate.

Q: How/where can I find an ASLS Training Center to complete the in-person skills session portion required to complete my ASLS Provider training and receive an ASLS Provider eCard?

A: There are a couple of ways to complete the skills session that is required to complete the ASLS Provider training and receive an ASLS Provider eCard. To attend an ASLS Provider course event, registrants do not need to be aligned with an ASLS Training Center. ASLS Provider eCards for these trainings will be issued by the host Training Center. To learn more about these events and requirements to attend, visit this [webpage](#).

Another way to complete the in-person skills session is to find an ASLS authorized Training Center in your area that is offering the ASLS Provider Course training. The Training Center search function on Atlas has been updated to include ASLS Training Centers. At this time, ASLS classes are not available in the Find a Class tool. However, you can search for an ASLS authorized Training Center by visiting atlas.heart.org and following these steps:

- Select Training Resources in the Navigation bar
- Click Training Center Search
- Enter your City and State to populate Training Centers in your area
- Under Filters on the lefthand side where Disciplines are listed, select View More Options and ASLS will appear
- Click on the box next to ASLS to narrow down the results to ASLS Training Centers and Training Sites

The AHA continues to grow its network of Training Centers and Instructors who can offer the hands-on skills session required for successful completion of this course. Therefore, the AHA also recommends that customers consult with a local AHA ACLS TC prior to purchasing the online portion to determine the TC's plans to offer skills sessions for the ASLS Blended Learning Course.

Q: Will ASLS classes be available in the Find a Class tool on Atlas in the future?

A: Yes, the AHA expects that ASLS classes will be available in the Find a Class tool on Atlas in the future, but does not have specific timing on when we anticipate this to occur.

Q: How do I find an ASLS TC that is offering ASLS classes?

A: To search for an ASLS authorized Training Center, please visit [Atlas.heart.org](https://atlas.heart.org) and follow these steps:

- Select Training Resources in the Navigation bar
- Click Training Center Search
- Enter your City and State to populate Training Centers in your area
- Under Filters on the lefthand side where Disciplines are listed, select View More Options and ASLS will appear
- Click on the box next to ASLS to narrow down the results to ASLS Training Centers and Training Sites.

Instructor Training

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Instructor?

A: Students must first successfully complete the ASLS Blended Learning Course and receive their ASLS Provider Card to begin the process to become an ASLS Instructor. Interested ASLS Instructor Candidates must identify an ASLS Training Center accepting new Instructors and then complete the ASLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course conducted by that TC and their Faculty. Additionally, interested ASLS Instructor Candidates must be an advanced healthcare provider (paramedic, nurse, etc).

Q: Is there an ASLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: Yes, there is an ASLS Instructor Essentials Course. This course is comprised of two parts: a self-directed, online portion covering material about becoming an ASLS Instructor, and an in-person portion taught by ASLS Faculty. Instructor Candidates also must be monitored by ASLS Faculty before teaching a course on their own.

Q: Do existing ACLS Instructors have to complete the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course to become ASLS Instructors?

A: Yes, existing ACLS Instructors will have to complete the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course to become ASLS Instructors.

Q: What is the student-to-Instructor ratio for the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: The student-to-Instructor ratio is 6:1 for the Instructor Essentials in-person component.

Q: What is the process for becoming ASLS Faculty? To become Faculty, do you have to be an ASLS Instructor for 2 years first?

A: To become an ASLS Faculty member, you must have completed provider and Instructor courses and be selected by your TC to have the Faculty designation. You also must be an active ASLS Instructor, but no minimum time as an Instructor is required. Additionally, Faculty members need to have a current advanced healthcare provider license and background (paramedic, nurse, etc).

Q: Can an Instructor just be an ASLS Instructor? Or do they need be an Instructor for both ACLS and ASLS?

A: While it is expected that ASLS Instructor candidates will be ACLS Instructors, there is no prerequisite for Instructors to be ACLS Instructors.

Q: Do existing Gordon Center-trained ASLS Instructors have to complete the ASLS Provider Blended Learning Course and the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course to become ASLS Instructors?

A: Yes, existing ASLS Instructors will have to complete the new ASLS Provider Blended Learning Course (both the online portion and the in-person, hands-on skills session) and the ASLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course (both the online portion and in-person classroom session) to become ASLS Instructors. ASLS Instructors who taught the ASLS course offered through the Gordon Center are required to complete both new courses to teach the new ASLS Blended Learning Course.

Curriculum

Q: Does this course help us meet the education requirements for stroke center designations?

A: Yes. It can be used toward the education hours required for stroke center designations.

Q: Do you suggest that all Comprehensive Stroke Centers include this option for their staff? If so, what time frame would be expected?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course is the most comprehensive and standardized stroke education course available. All healthcare organizations that care for stroke patients should consider having their staff complete the course.

Q: Since Stroke Center Certification is required on an annual basis, how will this course meet the need for hourly training since it offers a 2-year course completion card?

A: Completion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course annually meets the annual requirement for Stroke Center Certification. However, CE credits for completion of the ASLS Blended course can only be awarded every two years.

Q: Does it cover prehospital severity scales like FAST-ED and RACE?

A: Yes. It covers most of the commonly used stroke screening exams, and stroke severity scales used in stroke care (14 in total).

Q: Will the Adult Suspected Stroke Algorithm remain a component of ACLS?

A: Yes, the Adult Suspected Stroke Algorithm is still a component of ACLS. This algorithm is also part of the ASLS Blended curriculum.

Q: Is there a video segment for the hands-on skills portion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: Yes, ASLS Course Videos are required for all ASLS Instructors. The hands-on skills session of ASLS is focused on skills testing; however, it is required to have the videos available in the event a student needs remediation and additional skills demonstration. Course Videos are available to purchase in Digital or USB formats.

Q: Is the Team Dynamics concept included in the skills sessions?

A: The Team Dynamics concept is not covered in ASLS but is still a key concept in ACLS. Since ACLS proficiency is a highly recommended prerequisite for ASLS, this skill should already be known by the student.

Q: Is this a course appropriate for basic level providers?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course is ideal for advanced providers who care for patients with stroke or work in settings with patients who are at risk for stroke. Additionally, continuing education credits are only offered for the groups noted above.

Q: Is this course designed to be able to take the place of other NIHSS training?

A: No, this course does not take the place of the NIHSS training. However, the NIHSS is included in the curriculum with videos showing how to do each component and in video case scenarios. Additionally, during the skills evaluation component, the NIHSS can be selected for stroke scale demonstration and stroke syndrome evaluation where a student will have an opportunity to perform the exam twice with feedback from the Instructor.



Q: Does the ASLS course replace the stroke content in the current ACLS course?

A: No, the ASLS course does not replace the stroke-specific content that is in the current ACLS course. The ASLS course provides more advanced stroke training.

Q: For those going through the initial ASLS Course, is there an RQI version of the course to renew/maintain their course completion card?

A: No, there is no RQI version of ASLS.

How to Apply to Add ASLS to Your Training Center

Q: What are the current qualifications to add the ASLS discipline to your Training Center?

A: Currently, the Stroke discipline and new ASLS Blended Learning Course is only available to AHA Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Training Centers categorized as healthcare/hospitals, educational institutions, and first responder. It is also available to Gordon Center ASLS Training Centers.

Q: How can a qualified AHA ACLS TC add ASLS Blended Learning to their course offerings?

A: To start the application process to add the Stroke discipline, AHA ACLS TCs should send an email to harold.kellogg@heart.org and indicate "Request to Add AHA Stroke Discipline" in the subject line.

Q: What is the cost to add the new Stroke discipline to your AHA ACLS TC?

A: There is no cost associated with adding the new Stroke discipline to your ACLS TC.

Q: Does the TC Coordinator of an existing TC need to be an ASLS Instructor to add Stroke as a discipline? Or is it enough to have ASLS Instructors aligned with the AHA TC?

A: No, an AHA ACLS TC does not need to have either, since Stroke is a new discipline for AHA ACLS TCs. The AHA is currently accepting applications from AHA ACLS TCs (healthcare/hospitals, educational institutions, and first responder) interested in adding ASLS even if they currently do not have any ASLS Instructors.

Q: I am a qualified Training Site, but my Training Center is not planning to offer ASLS. How do I proceed?

A: If your Training Center is not planning to add the ASLS discipline to their system, your Training Site may be able to apply to become a standalone ASLS Training Center. This is a special circumstance and does not permit your site to add other disciplines (ACLS, BLS, PALS, etc) to the TC. There is no cost associated with setting your site up as an ASLS TC but certain qualifications may need to be met. If your training site is a **hospital, first responder, or education system** interested in becoming an ASLS only TC, please email Harold.kellogg@heart.org for more information.

Next Steps After the Completion of ASLS Instructor Training

Q: I am now an authorized ASLS Training Center. Where can I find information and supporting materials to help me roll out ASLS after I have completed training for my new Instructors and Faculty?

A: Visit the [ASLS Training Resources](#) page, which includes all supporting documents, guides, and links needed for TCCs to purchase and access materials so you can begin hosting ASLS Instructor and provider courses.

Q: How can my ASLS Authorized TC market and promote ASLS training?

A: An [ASLS Marketing Toolkit](#) is now available for ASLS TCs to use to market their training within their systems and to their communities. The toolkit contains the following items:

1. Customizable course flyers for Instructor and Provider courses
2. Downloadable promotional video that is available in different lengths
3. Product Information Sheet
4. Email Newsletter/Website copy
5. Link to the ASLS Training Center/Instructor/TCC seals hosted on Atlas
6. Press Release Template and Tips for Local Media. For guidance on using the ASLS press release, please refer to the document, "Tips to Engage with Local Media," that is also available in the ASLS Course Marketing Toolkit.

LMS Considerations

Q: Will the ASLS Blended Learning Course be available for purchase via Healthstream?

A: The AHA is actively working on LMS integration for the AHA Professional Education Hub. The ASLS Blended Learning Course is currently only available from the AHA Professional Education Hub Store.

ASLS Support Contacts

- **ASLS Application Requests:** Harold.Kellogg@heart.org – interested TCs who are ready to apply should email Harold directly to request an application
- **ASLS Support Inbox:** ASLS@heart.org – answers general course questions, assists with event registration and follow up, provides updates as they are available
- **AHA Professional Education Hub Help Inbox:** Education.Help@email.education.heart.org – assists with technical questions and issues on the AHA Professional Education Hub
- **AHA Professional Education Hub Sales Inbox:** Education.Sales@email.education.heart.org – contact for purchasing information and bulk orders from the Professional Education Hub