

2020 HeartCode® Courses FAQs



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

As of October 21, 2020

Q: What is HeartCode?

A: HeartCode is the online portion of BLS, ACLS, or PALS blended learning that will prepare students for hands-on practice and testing of skills. It uses a personalized adaptive algorithm that sets students on the most efficient path to content mastery. Students follow a continuously adapting learning path that is personalized by their own inputs: their performance, and their self-reported confidence level related to each probing question. The course content is presented in the form of self-directed learning content, probing questions, and Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs). After completing the eLearning component, students perform their skills with an AHA Instructor or a HeartCode compatible manikin that provides real-time audio and visual feedback. Students must successfully complete both the cognitive portion and the hands-on skills session to receive an AHA BLS, ACLS, or PALS Provider eCard, valid for two years.

Q: Do students who complete HeartCode courses and students who complete Instructor-led versions of courses learn the same cognitive information and skills?

A: Yes, the learning objectives for both delivery methods of BLS, ACLS, or PALS Provider Courses are the same.

Q: How does the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode differ from the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode?

A: The 2015 Guidelines HeartCode program uses eSimulation to teach cognitive knowledge. The 2020 Guidelines HeartCode uses a personalized adaptive algorithm that sets students on the most efficient path to mastery. Students follow a continuously adapting learning path that is personalized by their own inputs: their performance, and their self-reported confidence level related to each probing question. The course content is presented in the form of self-directed learning content, probing questions, and Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs).

Q: Do the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses include eSimulations?

A: No. For the 2020 HeartCode courses, the eSimulation activities have been replaced by Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs). These activities require students to apply their knowledge to a scenario-based patient case; however, the delivery of these activities is not in a gaming format like it was previously. The CAAs also alleviate many of the technical and accessibility issues customers reported with eSimulations.

Q: What are some of the key features of the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses?

A: Features of the 2020 HeartCode courses include:

- Engaging, **True Adaptive™** learning experience
- **Responsive design** that ensures compatibility on mobile devices and tablets
- All curriculum is **contextualized** for the in-hospital or prehospital student
- Students can select their **level of competence** as they begin the course, and can change their selection at any time during the course
- **Streamlined** Cognitive Assessment Activity (CAA) cases have **replaced eSimulations**

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- All curriculum is web-accessible through **inclusive design** (WCAG 2.1 AA)
- Ease of use for more students – works on **all common browsers** (no more Flash)

Q: If a Training Center (TC) or Instructor has unused/unactivated licenses for the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode, will those licenses automatically transition to the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode courses?

A: Yes. For customers who have unused/unactivated keys for one of the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode, on February 1, 2021, the AHA will automatically transition any unused/unactivated keys to the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode.

Course Length

Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of HeartCode courses?

A: Because of the adaptive technology used in these courses, the completion time for the online portion of HeartCode courses varies based on the student's self-assessment and knowledge of the cognitive material.

Q: What is the length of the HeartCode Instructor-led hands-on skills session?

A: Approximate times are as follows:

HeartCode BLS: 2-3 hours

HeartCode ACLS: 5-6 hours

HeartCode PALS: 4-5 hours

Accessing HeartCode Online

Q: How do students access the online portion of HeartCode courses?

A: Once a student is either issued or purchases a license for the online portion of a HeartCode BLS, ACLS, or PALS course, the student will go to eLearning.heart.org to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Instructors.

HeartCode Online Portion Certificate of Completion

Q: What is required for student entry into an Instructor-led hands-on session for HeartCode?

A: Upon successful completion of the online portion, students receive a certificate of completion, which they must present for entry into an Instructor-led hands-on skills session.

Q: How can Instructors verify the authenticity of certificates of completion for the online portion of HeartCode courses?

A: Instructors can verify completion certificates at eLearning.Heart.org/verify_certificate.

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High-Performance Teams/Megacode Activities

Q: How should Instructors conduct the high-performance teams or Megacode activities during the Instructor-led hands-on skills session, if conducting the session with individual students?

A: If conducting hands-on sessions for individuals, Instructors may teach all portions of the session except the high-performance teams or Megacode activity, and then bring a team of students back to conduct these activities. Instructors should not issue a course completion card until the full hands-on skills session, including the high-performance teams activity or Megacode, has been completed.

Continuing Education

Q: Do the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses offer continuing education (CE)?

A: Yes. For specific CE information, please see the specific HeartCode course listing (BLS, ACLS, or PALS) at eLearning.Heart.org or ShopCPR.Heart.org.