Training Bulletin: 2020 AHA Guidelines BLS Instructor Essentials



March 4, 2021
To provide direction for program management of the 2020 AHA Guidelines Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course.
The AHA has developed new BLS Instructor Essentials Course materials to aid in providing quality and consistency in all AHA BLS Instructor training. The new BLS Instructor Essentials Course prepares instructor candidates to teach 2020 Guidelines version BLS Provider Courses. The BLS Instructor Essentials Course is delivered in a blended learning format. AHA BLS instructor candidates first complete the online portion, followed by a hands-on session conducted by BLS Faculty. BLS instructor candidates must then be successfully monitored by BLS Faculty within six months to receive their AHA BLS Instructor card. Effective June 15, 2021, only the new BLS Instructor Essentials materials can be used for conducting BLS Instructor Essentials Courses.
 AHA Faculty To maintain consistency in BLS Instructor training, all BLS Faculty who teach BLS Instructor Essentials Courses are required to complete the online portion of the 2020 Guidelines BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course. This requirement must be met prior to conducting any 2020 Guidelines version BLS Instructor Essentials Courses or performing any activity as AHA BLS Faculty. Faculty who will teach Heartsaver Instructor Essentials courses must complete the online portion of Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course before teaching a Heartsaver Instructor Essentials Course. Current AHA Instructors The AHA does not require current AHA BLS Instructors to complete any components of the new BLS Instructor Essentials Course to maintain their Instructor status. However, Instructors who wish to add the BLS discipline will be required to complete the online portion of the BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course, and to print the certificate of completion. Training Center Coordinators can require current Instructors to complete any component of the pow BLS Instructor Essentials Course to ensure consistency within the Training Center.
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Requirements for
Instructor
Candidates

To become an AHA BLS Instructor, BLS instructor candidates must

- Be accepted by an AHA 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 current BLS Provider status and be proficient in all the skills of that discipline. NOTE: While AHA BLS Instructors also teach AHA Heartsaver courses, instructor candidates are not required to have a Heartsaver card in addition to a BLS Provider card.
- 3. Successfully complete the BLS 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 your primary Training Center for issuance of your Instructor ID number, which must be used to issue provider eCards.