



Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) Blended Learning Course Frequently Asked Questions

Languages

Q: What languages are available for the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: Currently the ASLS Blended Learning Course is available in U.S. English and International English (IVE). The IVE training materials have been updated to reflect global stroke epidemiology, differences in the availability of treatment options, the wide variety of stroke systems of care, and international stroke care quality improvement programs, and now include metric units of measurement applicable to students outside of the United States.

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 outside of the United States. The ASLS Blended Learning Course was co-developed by the American Heart Association and The University of Miami's Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education. It 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: prehospital; in-hospital; or 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 of the online portion of the course (prehospital; in-hospital; or prehospital and in-hospital). They then will receive a certificate of completion which they must present to an ASLS International Training Center (ITC) or instructor where they complete the in-person skills test. After all required components are complete, students will receive an ASLS Provider eCard.

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

A: Once the required components of the course are completed, 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: What are the costs for the ASLS Blended Learning Course materials?

A: The cost of the ASLS Provider online course (by track), Instructor Essentials Online and Instructor materials can be found at [ShopCPR](#) or reach out to your regional office for more information on where to purchase materials locally.

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

A: The in-person skills testing 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: 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 test 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: What is the approximate length of time for the skills session portion of the course?

A: The in-person skills test should take approximately one hour per student. Students needing remediation will require longer for their in-person test.

Q: How long does a student have to complete the in-person skills test of the course after completing the online module?

A: There is no time limit to complete the in-person skills test 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 are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Provider?

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

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, ITCs may schedule students in groups if they can set up multiple testing stations through which students rotate.

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: How do I become an AHA ASLS International Training Center

A: If you are interested in learning more information on how to become an AHA ASLS International Training Center, fill out this [form](#) or e-mail ASLS.International@heart.org.

Q: Are print materials available?

A: Currently, internationally, all ASLS training materials are available digitally.

Course Materials

Q: What type of equipment will be required to teach this course?

A: This course requires standardized patients or AHA Instructors serving as standardized actors for stroke symptoms. In addition, acute care equipment similar to those used for ACLS will be required. A simulation manikin may be used for the simulation scenario portion of the skills evaluation.

Q: Do you have to have a simulation lab to do skills session?

A: No, but you do have to have access to all the equipment, a standardized patient (or Instructor), and for the simulation scenario, a standardized patient (or Instructor) or a simulation manikin.

Q: What materials will be included in the ASLS Instructor Package?

A: The following IVE Instructor materials will be included in this package:

- IVE ASLS Instructor Manual eBook
- IVE ASLS Provider Manual eBook
- ASLS Digital Course Videos
- IVE ASLS Digital Reference Guide eBook
- ASLS Student Stroke Scale Checklists

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 eLearning Platform](#) to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or assigned by the TCC or Instructor. Once a student completes the online portion, they will receive a certificate of completion which must be presented to a TCC or Instructor to complete the in-person skills test. Upon successful completion, the ITC issues an ASLS eCard through the [eCard portal](#).

Applying to Teach the ASLS Blended Learning Course

Q: How can an AHA ITC add the ASLS discipline to their ITC agreement?

A: Applications for AHA ACLS ITCs to add the ASLS discipline to your ITC can be submitted now. To get started, and for more information, ITCs should send an email to ASLS.International@heart.org and indicate "Request to Add AHA ASLS Discipline" in the subject line.

Q: What is the cost to add the new ASLS discipline to your AHA ITC?

A: There is no cost associated with adding the new ASLS discipline to your ITC.

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

A: No, an AHA ITC does not need to have either at this time, since ASLS is a new discipline. The AHA is currently accepting applications from all AHA ITCs interested in adding ASLS even if they currently do not have any ASLS Instructors.

Instructor Training

Q: What is the process to become a new ASLS Instructor during the initial launch phase?

A: The AHA is currently hosting ASLS Faculty and Instructor rollout training events in areas across the globe with concentrated numbers of submitted and approved ASLS applications. To attend an event, the ITC must be approved as an ASLS Training Center first. To find an authorized ASLS Training Center, visit [Atlas](#). On the [Atlas](#) homepage, underneath "Are you Instructor", click "Find Training Center". Type your location in the search box and click "search". The page will populate authorized ITCs in your area. On this page, underneath "Filters", click "View More Options", click "ASLS", and authorized ASLS ITCs in your area will show.

Q: Is there an ASLS Instructor Essentials Course?

A: Yes. There is an ASLS Instructor Essentials Course consisting of an online, self-directed portion followed by an in-person component that is taught by ASLS Faculty.

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 7:1 for the Instructor Essentials in-person component.

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ASLS Instructor after the initial launch phase?

A: Students must first successfully complete the ASLS Blended Learning Course and receive their ASLS Provider eCard to become an ASLS Instructor. Interested ASLS Instructor Candidates must identify an ASLS ITC that is accepting new Instructors, complete an instructor candidate application, and successfully complete the ASLS Instructor Essentials Course. This course is comprised of two parts: a self-directed, online portion covering material about becoming an ASLS Instructor; and in-person portion conducted by ASLS Faculty where Instructor Candidates will learn to effectively evaluate ASLS students during their provider courses. Instructor Candidates must then be monitored by ASLS Faculty before teaching a course on their own.

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, you must have completed provider and Instructor courses, be an active instructor and be selected by your ITC faculty designation. Once selected, the ASLS Faculty candidate must be appropriately trained. For more information, please contact your ITC.

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

A: There is no prerequisite for Instructors to be ACLS Instructors before becoming an ASLS Instructor.

Curriculum Questions

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 part of the ACLS Blended curriculum.

Q: Is there a video segment for the in-person skills test portion of the ASLS Blended Learning Course?

A: Yes, ASLS Course videos are required for all ASLS Instructors. The in-person skills test 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.

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: 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, the student should already know this skill.

Q: Are EMTs of all levels eligible to take the class?

A: The ASLS Blended Learning Course is appropriate for all healthcare providers who care for patients with stroke or work in settings with patients who are at risk for stroke.