

## American Heart Association ACLS Course Prerequisites

The American Heart Association Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) course has been redesigned to incorporate new science evidence from the 2005 ECC Guidelines and a new teaching methodology. Through this course, healthcare providers will enhance their ability to care for adult victims of cardiopulmonary emergencies. ACLS emphasizes the importance of basic life support (BLS) to patient survival; the integration of effective BLS with ACLS interventions; and the importance of effective team interaction and communication.

ACLS is designed for professionals that respond to cardiovascular emergencies, including emergency, intensive care, or critical care healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses, paramedics and others.

The course consists of classroom and skills learning and testing activities that may include physical strain, possibility of cross-infection or emotional stress. If you have a medical problem that limits your activity, you may want to consult your physician before participating. If you have any type of infectious disease, temperature, cold or flu, have any open sores, or other concerns, you should schedule your class for a time when you are well.



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### **ⓘ The American Heart Association has established new ACLS Course Prerequisites effective for all classes starting December 1, 2006. Read this very carefully!**

To attend an ACLS class you must be proficient and understand ECG interpretation, emergency pharmacology, the 10 ACLS core cases and the ACLS algorithms before class. In addition, you must have an AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers' card (Dated July 1, 2006 or later that meets the current ECC standards) or have proficiency in BLS that meets the current ECC standards and without prompting be able to perform high-quality CPR and use an AED according to the current standards.

Once you have enrolled in a class, LifeLink will issue you a loaner textbook (to be returned at the end of class) and other materials, including a Precourse Self-Assessment Test. Before you arrive at class, you are expected to read and study the textbook and materials thoroughly and complete the Precourse Self Assessment Test. Once you have completed the test, you will score it yourself using the provided answer key. In addition, the American Heart Association requires a signed Learning Contract verifying that you:

- Have current proficiency in basic life support and without prompting are able to perform high-quality CPR and use an AED according to the 2005 ECC Guidelines (Effective July 1, 2006).

*You should have an AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers card (Dated July 1, 2006 or later that meets the current ECC standards) or have otherwise become proficient. Each student must successfully complete an individual BLS skills test at the start of class.*

- Have read and understand the current ACLS algorithms.
- Are able to identify each of the ECG rhythms in the current ACLS algorithms.
- Understand the use and administration of each medication in the current ACLS algorithms.
- Have read and understand the 10 core cases presented in the ACLS textbook.
- Have completed the Precourse Self-Assessment Test and scored your answer sheet.
- Understand the need for significant precourse preparation, and understand that without adequate precourse preparation you may not successfully complete the ACLS Course.

Your scored Precourse Self-Assessment Test answer sheet and signed Learning Contract must be given to the Lead Instructor before class starts.

### **ⓘ To attend an ACLS course, all prerequisites must be completed before class starts. Although the ACLS course is conducted in a supportive environment, you must thoroughly study so that you are prepared. We want you to succeed!**

To learn about the current ECC guidelines please visit us at:  
<http://www.grantlifelink.com/outreach/eccguidelines/eccguidelines.htm>