



Basic Life Support

Fact Sheet

Course Purpose

The American Red Cross Basic Life Support (BLS) course provides participants with the knowledge and skills they need to assess, recognize and care for patients who are experiencing respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, airway obstruction or opioid overdose. When a patient experiences a life-threatening emergency, healthcare providers need to act swiftly and promptly. The course emphasizes providing high-quality care and integrating psychomotor skills with critical thinking and problem solving to achieve the best possible patient outcomes.

Course Prerequisites

None

Learning Objectives

- Apply concepts of effective teamwork when caring for a patient experiencing a life-threatening emergency.
- Integrate communication, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills during a high-performance BLS team response.
- Apply a systematic, continuous approach to assess, recognize and care for adults, children and infants experiencing a life-threatening emergency.
- Perform a rapid assessment for responsive and unresponsive adults, children and infants.
- Effectively care for adults, children and infants in respiratory arrest.
- State the principles of high-quality CPR for adults, children and infants.
- Identify BLS differences among adults, children and infants.
- Provide high-quality chest compressions for adults, children and infants.
- Deliver effective ventilations to adults, children and infants using a pocket mask and bag-valve-mask (BVM) resuscitator.
- Demonstrate effective use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for adults, children and infants.

- Provide high-quality BLS care for adults, children and infants in single- and multiple-provider situations.
- Deliver effective abdominal thrusts, back blows and chest thrusts for adults, children and infants with airway obstruction.
- State the principles of care for a patient experiencing an opioid overdose.

Course Options and Lengths

BLS is available through two different delivery formats: Instructor-Led (Classroom) and Blended Learning. Abbreviated versions of the instructor-led course are available with the Review course and Challenge options. A table including estimated lengths of the various BLS course options is provided below.

Course Name	Course Code and Version	Delivery Format	Length (H:MM)
Basic Life Support	HSSBLS101 r.2019	Instructor-Led	4:00
		Blended Learning	Online: 1:30 (Varies) In-Person: 2:00
Basic Life Support Review	HSSBLS101R r.2019	Instructor-Led	2:05
		Blended Learning	Varies
Basic Life Support Challenge	HSSBLS101C r.2019	Instructor-Led	Varies

Instructor

Instructors must hold a Basic Life Support instructor certificate in order to teach BLS. Specific information on eligibility and instructions on how to receive a BLS Instructor certification can be found on Instructor’s Corner.

Certification

Participants who successfully complete the BLS course will be issued a Basic Life Support certification that is valid for two years.

Participant’s Manual

The *Basic Life Support Participant’s Manual* includes coverage of essential emergency care components for all age groups (adult, child, infant) including:

- Rapid Assessment and Visual Survey

- CPR/AED for Adults, Children and Infants
- Obstructed Airways
- Opioid Overdoses
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Communication and Teamwork
- The Emergency Medical Services System
- Legal Considerations
- Precautions

The *Basic Life Support Participant's Manual* may be downloaded for free from www.redcross.org or purchased from the Red Cross Store (www.redcross.org/store).