Essential Stroke Life Support® (ESLS®) eLearning Course FAQs
As of January 30, 2025

Below is a list of topics covered in this FAQs document. If you would like to skip to a topic and view its set of questions, then please click on the topic and you'll be taken to the questions.

- Course Information
- Course Materials and CE
- Course Format
- Adding ESLS to Your Training Center Offerings
- Technical Specifications

Course Information

Q: What is the ESLS eLearning Course?
A: The Essential Stroke Life Support (ESLS) Online Provider Course is a self-directed eLearning course designed to teach healthcare providers knowledge for faster stroke recognition and triage for patients that may present outside of a more advanced stroke care setting. ESLS is ideal for basic healthcare providers who may not treat or manage patients with stroke as part of their normal scope of practice. The ESLS Course was co-developed by the American Heart Association and The University of Miami's Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education.

Q: Who is the intended audience for the ESLS eLearning Course?
A: The ESLS course is ideal for providers such as nurses who do not manage stroke patients on a regular basis and for the larger population of prehospital providers such as EMTs who do not have or require the advanced skills of paramedics. This course is relevant for home health nursing providers, medical assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and respiratory therapists.

Q: How does the ESLS eLearning Course work?
A: AHA eLearning courses give students the flexibility to learn at their own pace and on their own schedule, anywhere and anytime an internet connection is available. eLearning courses are fully self-directed, and do not require a separate skills testing check-off. To successfully complete the ESLS Provider eLearning course, students must complete two components within the online-only course including:

1. An adaptive learning online component where students follow a continuously adapting learning path that is personalized by their own inputs, for not only their performance, but also their self-reported confidence levels.
2. Virtual patient case simulations (vSims) that include conducting a primary survey of the patient, a stroke assessment, SAMPLE History, and early interventions. Students must complete 4 of 6 vSims.

After students complete the eLearning components, they must complete the course completion survey. They will then be able to download a Certificate of Completion and claim Continuing Education (CE) credits.

Q: What content is covered in the didactic eLearning section?
A: The modules in the online adaptive learning section include:

- Module 1: Course Overview
- Module 2: Stroke Facts and Rationale for Emergent Care
- Module 3: Major Stroke Syndromes and Stroke Mimics
- Module 4: Focused Neurologic Assessment for Stroke
- Module 5: Stroke Management: Initial Priorities
- Module 6: Video Case Workshop

Q: What stroke syndromes are included in the vSim section?
A: The vSim section will have 6 patients experiencing the following stroke syndromes, as well as a required normal patient case tutorial so students can familiarize themselves with the interface:

- Practice Case (Normal Patient)
- Left Hemisphere
- Right Hemisphere
- Cerebellum
- Brainstem
- Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
- Transient Ischemic Attack (Normal exam)
- Stroke Mimic (coming soon)

Q: What are the learning objectives for the ESLS eLearning course?
A: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Perform a focused evaluation to identify stroke and its location
- Describe why early treatment of stroke may result in a marked reduction in risk of disability
- Identify the 5 main stroke syndromes and relate them to pathophysiology and clinical signs
- Define the initial management of patients with ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes
- Describe the principles of prehospital stroke management that make up the current standard of care
- Determine when to call a stroke alert and quickly transport the patient to the nearest appropriate facility
- Communicate the patient's symptoms, the time of symptom onset, and the stroke screening exam results clearly and succinctly to hospital personnel

Q: What are the prerequisites to become an ESLS Provider?
A: There is no prerequisite that students have a current BLS or ACLS Provider card. This course is also not a prerequisite for the Advanced Stroke Life Support® (ASLS) Blended Learning Course.

Q: How long do students have access to the online course?
A: Students will have access to the online course for 2 years. Students are encouraged to access the online course to refresh their knowledge on a three-to-six-month basis.

Q: Is this course appropriate for advanced level providers?
A: The ESLS eLearning course is for basic healthcare providers who may not treat or manage patients with stroke as part of their normal scope of practice. However, the ASLS Blended Learning Course is ideal for advanced healthcare providers who care for patients with stroke or work in settings with patients who are at risk for stroke. Additionally, continuing education credits are only offered for the groups noted above.

Course Materials and CE

Q: What are the prices for the new ESLS eLearning Course materials?
A: The pricing for ESLS Provider digital materials including the online course and Provider eBook can be viewed on the AHA Professional Education Hub. The print version of the ESLS Reference Card is available to purchase on ShopCPR.

Q: Are Continuing Education (CE) credits available for this course?
A: Yes, see below for credit hours for Physicians, EMS, Nurses, and Respiratory Therapists:

- AMA Credit – Physicians - 2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
- AAPA Credit – Physician Assistants -2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
- AANP Credit– Nurse Practitioners – 2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
- ANCC Credit – Nurses - 2.5 contact hours
- CAPCE Credit – Emergency Medical Services - 2.75 Basic CEHs
- AARC Credit - Respiratory Therapist - 2.25 contact hour(s) Continuing Respiratory Care Education (CRCE) credit

Course Format

Q: How do students access the ESLS eLearning Course?
A: Once a student is either issued or purchases a license for the eLearning course, the student will go to the AHA Professional Education Hub to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Training Centers on the Professional Education Hub Store.

Q: What is the approximate length of the course?
A: Since the online eLearning 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:

- ESLS Provider eLearning: 1 – 1.5 hours
- ESLS vSim Patients: 1 hour (10-20 minutes per patient)

Q: How can one determine how long an individual participant took to complete the online course?
A: The student completing the online module can view the length of time it took them to complete the course on the course dashboard.

Q: Will ESLS classes be available in Find a Class tool on Atlas in the future?
A: No, the ESLS course is a fully online course and will not be included in the Find a Course Tool. There are no functions in Atlas that involve ESLS.

Q: Is there an ESLS Instructor Essentials Course?
A: No, there is not an ESLS Instructor Essentials Course because there are no Instructor components.

Q: Is there an Instructor-led or blended version of the AHA ESLS Course being offered? Is there a plan to do this type of course?
A: No. The only offering for the AHA ESLS Course is the ESLS eLearning Course.

Adding ESLS to Your Training Center Offerings

Q: What are the current qualifications to add the ESLS to your Training Center course offerings?
A: ESLS is a fully online eLearning course. There is no required Instructor component, or in-person classroom session required for the completion of this course so Training Centers will *not* need to apply to add ESLS. However, AHA Training Center Coordinators (TCCs) and Instructors will be able to purchase ESLS course licenses in bulk and issue them from the License Manager on the Professional Education Hub to interested students. To learn how to set up your Training Center's License Management Account, please review this document or contact Education.Sales@email.education.heart.org.

Technical Specifications

Q: What are the minimum technical requirements for the ESLS eLearning Course?
A: Compatible Devices/Operating System:

Web Browsers	Latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari
Operating Systems	Windows 70 as minimum or newer, Mac OS 70.7 or newer, iOS and Android (mobile and tablet compatible)
Computing Hardware	Intel Core 2 Duo Processor or equivalent
Internet Connection	Broadband - Fiber, wireless, DSL, cable modem