Training Bulletin

2025 AHA Guidelines BLS Instructor Essentials

Date of release	April 14, 2026
Purpose	To provide direction for program management of the 2025 AHA Guidelines Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course.
General information	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 2025 Guidelines version BLS 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 classroom session conducted by BLS Training Faculty. BLS instructor candidates must then be successfully monitored by BLS Training Faculty within six months to receive their AHA BLS Instructor card. Effective April 14, 2026, only the new BLS Instructor Essentials materials can be used for conducting BLS Instructor Essentials Courses.
Requirements For AHA BLS Training Faculty and Current BLS Instructors	***AHA Faculty*** • To maintain consistency in BLS Instructor training, all Training Faculty who teach BLS Instructor Essentials Courses are required to complete the online portion of the 2025 Guidelines BLS Instructor Essentials Blended Learning Course. This requirement must be met prior to conducting any 2025 Guidelines version BLS Instructor Essentials Courses or performing any activity as an AHA BLS Training Faculty. ***Current AHA BLS 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. • Training Center Coordinators can require current instructors to complete any component of the new BLS Instructor Essentials Course to ensure consistency within the Training Center.
Requirements for Instructor Candidates	To become an AHA BLS Instructor, BLS instructor candidates must 1. 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 a current BLS Provider Course Completion card and be proficient in all the skills of BLS provider status.

	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. Align with the Training Center on **Atlas**.