



2025 HeartCode® Courses FAQs

As of October 22, 2025

Q: What is HeartCode Online?

A: HeartCode Online is a self-directed, comprehensive eLearning course that uses adaptive learning technology to allow students to acquire resuscitation knowledge. Featuring a True Adaptive™ learning experience, the course provides students with the ability to learn, apply, and validate their clinical knowledge via eLearning and scenario-based assessment activities.

The True Adaptive™ learning experience offers a personalized adaptive algorithm that sets students on the most efficient path to content mastery. Students follow a continuously adapting learning path that is personalized by their own inputs: their performance, and their self-reported confidence level related to each probing question. The course content is presented in the form of self-directed learning content, probing questions, and Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs).

Successful completion of both a HeartCode Online course and a hands-on skills session is required to receive an American Heart Association course completion eCard, valid for two years. The hands-on skills session can be completed either via an Instructor-led skills session (HeartCode Instructor-led Skills) or a self-directed skills session at a simulation station (HeartCode Self-Directed Skills).

Q: How does the 2025 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online differ from the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online?

A: The 2020 Guidelines HeartCode Online course introduced the personalized, adaptive algorithm that sets students on the most efficient path to mastery. Students follow a continuously adapting learning path that is personalized by their own inputs: their performance, and their self-reported confidence level related to each probing question. The course content is presented in the form of self-directed learning content, probing questions, and Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs).

The 2025 Guidelines HeartCode Online course builds upon these design elements while incorporating feedback from students to elevate the experience. Enhancements include redesigned eLearning modules incorporating high-stakes

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scenarios with increased realism, additional team dynamics, improved dashboards, an enhanced user interface, and embedded scientific resources.

Q: What are some of the key features of the 2025 Guidelines HeartCode Online courses?

A: Features of the 2025 HeartCode Online courses include:

- Engaging, True Adaptive™ learning experience
- Responsive design that ensures compatibility on mobile devices and tablets
- All curriculum is contextualized for the in-hospital or prehospital student
- Students select their level of competence as they begin and rank their confidence as they progress through the course, which support a personalized learning path
- A modular course design which allows students to easily track their progress
- Redesigned Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs) incorporating high-stakes scenarios with increased realism and additional team dynamics
- All curriculum is web-accessible through inclusive design (WCAG 2.2 AA)

Q: If a Training Center (TC) or Instructor has unused/unactivated licenses for the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online, will those licenses transition to the 2025 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online courses?

A: Yes. Unused/unactivated licenses for the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online are expected to transition on March 1, 2026 to the 2025 Guidelines version of HeartCode Online.

Q: How long does it take to complete the online portion of HeartCode courses?

A: Because of the adaptive technology used in these courses, the completion time for the online portion of HeartCode courses varies based on the student's self-assessment and knowledge of the cognitive material.



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- Q: How do students access the HeartCode Online course?
- A: Once a student is either issued or purchases a license for the online portion of a HeartCode BLS, ACLS, or PALS course, the student will go to eLearning.heart.org to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Instructors.
- Q: Do the 2025 Guidelines HeartCode Online courses offer continuing education (CE)?
- A: Yes. For specific CE information, please see the specific cpr.heart.org course landing pages for [BLS](#), [ACLS](#), and [PALS](#).
- Q: What are the benefits of an eLearning course?
- A: Association 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.

HeartCode Blended Learning

- Q: What is HeartCode Blended Learning?
- A: The HeartCode® Blended Learning course is a convenient training approach that combines the flexibility of online learning with the essential hands-on practice of in-person skills training.

HeartCode Blended Learning includes two parts: an online eLearning portion (HeartCode Online) followed by a hands-on skills session (HeartCode Instructor-led Skills) with an American Heart Association Instructor. After completing the online portion of the course, students must complete a hands-on session (sold separately) with an Association Training Center to obtain an Association course completion eCard, valid for 2-years.

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Q: What is HeartCode Instructor-led Skills?

A: The HeartCode Instructor-led Skills session is the hands-on component of the Association's HeartCode Blended Learning program. Designed to follow the completion of the eLearning course (HeartCode Online), this session allows participants to apply and demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a live, Instructor-led class. This structured hands-on session focuses on meaningful skills practice, team scenarios, and skills testing. Upon successful completion of both the HeartCode online course and the Instructor-led skills session, students will receive their official Association course completion eCard.

Q: What is the length of the HeartCode Instructor-led session course?

A: Approximate times are as follows:

- HeartCode BLS: 2 hours and 45 minutes with breaks
- HeartCode ACLS: 6.75 to 7.75 hours with breaks
- HeartCode PALS: 4 hours and 5 minutes to 5 hours (with optional lessons)

Q: What is required for student entry into a HeartCode Instructor-led Skills session?

A: Upon successful completion of the eLearning portion (HeartCode Online), students receive a certificate of completion, which they must present for entry into an Instructor-led hands-on skills session.

Q: How can Instructors verify the authenticity of certificates of completion for the online portion of HeartCode courses?

A: Instructors can verify completion certificates at eLearning.Heart.org/verify_certificate.

Q: How should Instructors conduct the high-performance teams or Megacode activities during the HeartCode Instructor-led Skills session, if conducting the session with individual students?

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- A: If conducting hands-on sessions for individuals, Instructors may teach all portions of the session except the high-performance teams or Megacode activity and then bring a team of students back to conduct these activities. Instructors should not issue a course completion card until the full hands-on skills session, including the high-performance teams activity or Megacode, has been completed.
- Q: What are the benefits of a blended learning course?
- A: Blended learning is a combination of eLearning, in which a student completes part of the course in a self-directed manner online, followed by a hands-on session. Successful blended learning can reach students with varying learning styles and in different environments. It combines the flexibility of online training with skills practice and testing for CPR and other psychomotor skills.
- Q: Do students who complete the HeartCode Blended Learning course and students who complete the Instructor-led BLS course learn the same cognitive information and skills?
- A: Yes, the learning objectives for both delivery methods are the same. By combining comprehensive online learning with hands-on skills practice and testing, HeartCode offers consistent, high-quality resuscitation training across a healthcare organization at a pace suited for every individual.