

# 2020 HeartCode® Courses FAQs



## CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

*As of October 21, 2020*

**Q: What is HeartCode?**

A: HeartCode is the online portion of BLS, ACLS, or PALS blended learning that will prepare students for hands-on practice and testing of skills. It uses 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). After completing the eLearning component, students perform their skills with an AHA Instructor or a HeartCode compatible manikin that provides real-time audio and visual feedback. Students must successfully complete both the cognitive portion and the hands-on skills session to receive an AHA BLS, ACLS, or PALS Provider eCard, valid for two years.

**Q: Do students who complete HeartCode courses and students who complete Instructor-led versions of courses learn the same cognitive information and skills?**

A: Yes, the learning objectives for both delivery methods of BLS, ACLS, or PALS Provider Courses are the same.

**Q: How does the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode differ from the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode?**

A: The 2015 Guidelines HeartCode program uses eSimulation to teach cognitive knowledge. The 2020 Guidelines HeartCode uses a 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).

**Q: Do the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses include eSimulations?**

A: No. For the 2020 HeartCode courses, the eSimulation activities have been replaced by Cognitive Assessment Activities (CAAs). These activities require students to apply their knowledge to a scenario-based patient case; however, the delivery of these activities is not in a gaming format like it was previously. The CAAs also alleviate many of the technical and accessibility issues customers reported with eSimulations.

**Q: What are some of the key features of the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses?**

A: Features of the 2020 HeartCode 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 can select their **level of competence** as they begin the course, and can change their selection at any time during the course
- **Streamlined** Cognitive Assessment Activity (CAA) cases have **replaced eSimulations**

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- All curriculum is web-accessible through **inclusive design** (WCAG 2.1 AA)
- Ease of use for more students – works on **all common browsers** (no more Flash)

**Q: If a Training Center (TC) or Instructor has unused/unactivated licenses for the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode, will those licenses automatically transition to the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode courses?**

**A:** Yes. For customers who have unused/unactivated keys for one of the 2015 Guidelines version of HeartCode, on February 1, 2021, the AHA will automatically transition any unused/unactivated keys to the 2020 Guidelines version of HeartCode.

### Course Length

**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.

**Q: What is the length of the HeartCode Instructor-led hands-on skills session?**

**A:** Approximate times are as follows:

HeartCode BLS: 2-3 hours

HeartCode ACLS: 5-6 hours

HeartCode PALS: 4-5 hours

### Accessing HeartCode Online

**Q: How do students access the online portion of HeartCode courses?**

**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](http://eLearning.heart.org) to activate the license and complete the online portion of the course. Licenses can be purchased by either students or Instructors.

### HeartCode Online Portion Certificate of Completion

**Q: What is required for student entry into an Instructor-led hands-on session for HeartCode?**

**A:** Upon successful completion of the online portion, 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](http://eLearning.Heart.org/verify_certificate).

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### High-Performance Teams/Megacode Activities

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

**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.

### Continuing Education

**Q: Do the 2020 Guidelines HeartCode courses offer continuing education (CE)?**

**A:** Yes. For specific CE information, please see the specific HeartCode course listing (BLS, ACLS, or PALS) at [eLearning.Heart.org](http://eLearning.Heart.org) or [ShopCPR.Heart.org](http://ShopCPR.Heart.org).