



## Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Course Description

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) is a video-based, Instructor-led, advanced course, builds on the foundation of basic life support (BLS) skills. It emphasizes the importance of continuous, high-quality CPR and takes healthcare provider training to the next level- highlighting the importance of high-performance team dynamics and communication, systems of care, recognition and intervention of cardiopulmonary arrest, immediate post-cardiac arrest, acute dysrhythmia, stroke, and acute coronary syndromes.

### Intended Audience:

The Heart and Stroke Foundations ACLS Course is designed for healthcare professionals who either direct or participate in the management of cardiopulmonary arrest or other cardiovascular emergencies. This includes personnel in emergency response, emergency medicine, intensive care, and critical care units such as physicians, nurses, and paramedics, as well as others who need an ACLS course completion card for job or other requirements.

It is highly recommended that only those who will use the skills of ACLS within their scope of practice take the ACLS Course. All students who meet the prerequisites and successfully pass the ACLS course will receive a course completion card. Receipt of a course completion card does not grant permission to practice the skills learned

### Course Overview and Design:

Scientific evidence has pointed the way toward better content, while educational research has led to improved design of the Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Provider Course. Both the design and the content of the Heart and Stroke Foundation ACLS Provider Course are evidence based.

The ACLS Provider Course emphasizes 3 major concepts:

The crucial importance of high-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to patient survival

The integration of effective basic life support (BLS) with ACLS interventions

The importance of effective team interaction and communication during resuscitation

The course is designed to give students the opportunity to practice and demonstrate proficiency in the following skills used in resuscitation:

Systematic approach

High-quality BLS

Airway management





Rhythm recognition

Defibrillation

Intravenous (IV)/intraosseous (IO) access (information only)

Use of medications

Cardioversion

Transcutaneous pacing

Team dynamics

Students will practice the application of these and other skills in simulated cases and will practice both Team Leader and team member roles.

