

Lesson 1

ACLS Course Overview and Organization

10 minutes

Instructor Tips

- Make sure to emphasize critical aspects of the course, such as the course agenda, design, and completion requirements
- Breaks: Think about how you want to manage breaks during this course. Making yourself available allows you to answer questions people might feel too embarrassed to ask in front of others. It also gives you time to create rapport and get feedback
- **In these lesson plans, items that are in boldface have greater importance**



Discussion

In a large group, with all students, do the following:

- Present the course overview
- Discuss the course agenda, design, and completion requirements
- Be certain that students understand major course concepts
 - Importance of early high-quality CPR and early defibrillation to patient survival
 - Integration of effective BLS with ACLS interventions
 - The clinical signs of patient deterioration (preventing arrest)
 - The functioning of high-performance teams relative to patient survival
 - Timing, quality, coordination, and administration
- Discuss the importance of effective team interaction and communication during a resuscitation attempt. Explain the learning stations and rotations through the stations
 - Provide an overview of how the students will move through the stations
- Answer students' questions
- **Assign students to small groups for learning stations**
 - Limit the number of students to 6 (maximum of 8 per group)
- **Tell students that they will be using their provider manuals throughout the course**
- Explain the course completion requirements, including the mandatory use of an audiovisual feedback device for all CPR practice and testing. Students must
 - Pass the Adult High-Quality BLS Skills Test
 - Pass the Airway Management Skills Test
 - Demonstrate competency in learning station skills
 - Pass the Megacode Test
 - Pass the open-resource exam with a minimum score of 84% (does not apply to HeartCode students)
 - An open-resource exam allows students to use available resources, such as the Handbook of ECC and provider manual, posters, algorithms, etc, to process information analytically but also to think independently and creatively with curriculum content
 - You should issue a course completion card immediately after a student successfully completes the course but no later than 30 days after class