

Training Memo: Revised Core Instructor Course Policy

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DATE: May 4, 2006

FROM: Program Administration Subcommittee, National ECC Program

TO: American Heart Association Training Centers and Instructors

Core Instructor Course

The AHA Core Instructor Course was developed at the request of ECC instructors and volunteers to provide consistent and uniform instructor training to instructors, thereby adding strength to our instructor network. The Core instructor Course is the foundation for the 2006 discipline specific courses.

The AHA Core Instructor Course will be used to train all new instructors after October 1, 2006. To complete instructor training, Instructor candidates will need to complete, in order:

1. Core Instructor Course
2. Discipline specific training module (ACLS, BLS, HS, PALS)
3. Successful monitoring of first provider course taught

Revised Policy

The ECC Program leadership has heard many concerns about the barriers to implementing a mandatory completion of the Core Instructor Course by current instructors. The leadership, including the Program Administration Subcommittee and the Education Subcommittee are strongly committed to the improvement of the science of education and the delivery of American Heart Association ECC courses. It is imperative that instructors are taught the most effective way of delivering ECC courses. This commitment was weighed against the barriers of improving the knowledge and skills of instructors. After considering the barriers of time and cost, PROAD is revising the mandate for ACLS, BLS, Heartsaver, and PALS Instructors to complete the Core Instructor Course.

Current instructors are no longer required to complete this course unless they fall into one of the following categories:

- Are adding a discipline, ie BLS Instructor adding an ACLS Instructor status
- Are identified by their Training Center Faculty or a Regional Faculty as having documented deficiencies in either skills or required knowledge of course curricula they are authorized to teach
- Are a National Faculty, Regional Faculty or Training Center Faculty member

This revision does not infer that current instructors should disregard the potential gain

they will have by completing the course of their own accord. It is expected that Training Centers will ensure that all instructors aligned with the TC are competent to teach the courses they are authorized to teach.

**Regional
Faculty and
Training
Center
Faculty**

National Faculty, Regional Faculty and Training Center Faculty must complete the Core Instructor Course before they teach that course or the discipline specific instructor courses, but no later than June 30, 2007. Completion of the Core Instructor Course counts as credit for one course taught (in each of the instructor's disciplines) for renewal.

**Instructor
Renewals**

PROAD has not officially extended instructor renewal dates. However, Training Centers may choose to conduct renewals to coincide with *Science Update sessions*.

Instructor renewal requirements outlined in the Program Administration Manual remain the same. When the Core Instructor Course is completed, the Instructor receives a "teaching credit". For that renewal period, the following requirements apply:

1. Teach 3 courses in the previous 2 years or current instructor status period
 2. Attend appropriate Science update
 3. Document confirmation of current provider status by
 - a. Current card, OR
 - b. Demonstrate skills and successfully completion of test
 4. Attend product orientation and update for that discipline
 5. Document successful teaching ability (Instructor Monitoring)
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**Purchasing
course
materials,
and obtaining
CE**

The Core Instructor Course will be valuable tool to a variety of programs other than American Heart Association ECC instructors. Retail availability to non-AHA instructors will enable a larger audience to benefit from the course and obtain Continuing Education Credit.

American Heart Association Training Centers will receive a significant discount when purchasing using the TC course card ID number. This will enable Training Centers to effectively offer a complete training package for new instructors, and confidently enroll Instructor Candidates into instructor courses. The final price will be determined based on production estimates from our printers, but we are expecting the Training Center's price to be about \$25 – 30.00.

Continuing Education Credit is only available if the user registers and completes all modules online through the American Heart Association Learning Management System (LMS). There are NO additional fees for the CE when completed through the LMS.

**Provider
Courses -
Milestones**

After July 1, 2006 – all courses are to be taught with new science (2005 AHA Guidelines).

- BLS for Healthcare Providers using new materials and format only
- Heartsaver programs may use bridge materials (science on 30:2, single-shock then CPR, etc.)
- ACLS and PALS using bridge materials

Only the new course format and materials for Heartsaver, ACLS and PALS can be used 90 days after their respective release.
