

ACLS, PALS and BLS (CPR) FAQs

1. How do I register for ACLS, PALS or BLS (BCLS, CPR) courses?

- a. UPHS employees register for all courses on Knowledge Link, Penn’s online information source for all education (<http://knowledgelink.upenn.edu/>). Once you log into KL you will need to click on the “Home” tab. On the right hand side of the home page you will see the “Search Catalog” option. Please type in the class that you are interested in registering for. Search **ACLS** for Advanced cardiac Life Support, **PALS** for Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and **BLS** for Basic Life Support (BCLS, CPR). If you do not see them, please follow FAQ # 7.

- b. In order to register for ACLS, PALS, and BLS, you must first read and accept the appropriate “Welcome Letter/Pledge” which contains the conditions for enrollment in the course. This is found under the “Prerequisites” in the Item Details. Once you “Add to Learning Plan” and complete, you will then be able to view the available course dates and select one.

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Item Details

ACLS Recertification 8 hour – UPHS

▼ **Item Summary**

Course
HS.70001.ITEM.ACLS101

Revision: '1' - 10/1/2012 12:00 AM America/New York

Description: You must complete the Welcome Letter and Pledge before registering for this course. You can view and launch the prerequisites from the Item Details.

ACLS recertification in a traditional format (8 hours) for currently certified or recently-lapsed (less than 1 month) ACLS providers. You must bring your current ACLS provider card to class. Successful participants receive an AHA ACLS certification card, valid for two years. Enrollees who no-show or cancel less than 7 days prior to the course will be charged a cancellation fee equivalent to the course tuition (\$200). Recommended: 1. Purchase or obtain the ACLS Provider Manual (available from the Sim Center); 2. Do the Pre-course self-assessment and any other needed review on the AHA website (www.heart.org/eccstudent password: compression).

Length: 7.50 **Source:** UPHS: Rittenhouse Simulation Center **Contact:** Chet.Zaremski@uphs.upenn.edu

CPEs: **Credit Hours:** **Contact Hours:**

Delivery Method: Instructor Led Training

▶ **Subject Areas (1 Found)**

▼ **Prerequisites (1 Found)**

📄 📄 ACLS Recertification Course - Welcome Letter / Pledge

▶ **Substitutes (0 Found)**

▶ **Competencies (0 Found)**

▶ **Related Documents (0 Found)**

Add to Learning Plan

Add to Learning Plan

View Offerings

- c. Non-UPHS trainees can register on the Sim Center website or by contacting Tonya Jones at the Sim Center (Tonya.Jones2@uphs.upenn.edu, 215-893-7700)

2. I need to cancel a previously scheduled course. What do I do?

You can cancel a course on Knowledge Link up to two business days before the course begins. After that, you must contact the Sim Center (Tonya.Jones2@uphs.upenn.edu, 215-893-7700) to cancel. Late cancellations or no-shows will incur a fee to your division or department equivalent to the registration fee for the course. You will be asked to acknowledge this when you register (Pledge/Participant Agreement).

3. Which ACLS course should I take?

The Sim Center offers several pathways to ACLS certification and re-certification.

- a. **ACLS Re-certification:** for trainees who have been previously certified and those whose certification has not lapsed by more than one month. *You must bring your current certification card with you to be admitted.*
 - I. **Traditional:** Live (1 day, 7-8 hour) courses. To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: **ACLS Recertification 8 hour-UPHS**
 - II. **ACLS HeartCode (Web-based):** an online (5-8 hours), web-based version of the traditional ACLS course; must be followed by live, 1-2 hour, in-person skills practice/testing (Skills Check) at the Sim Center. Offers maximum convenience, but challenging and not recommended for inexperienced providers. The online HeartCode course requires approval from the Sim Center. To request approval, in KnowledgeLink, self-assign the **ACLS Cert/Recert Curriculum (Online Heartcode Course and Skills Check)** and click “Request Approval” button next to **ACLS HeartCode – Part 1: Welcome Letter/Pledge/Online Course**. Once your request is approved (by email or see your KnowledgeLink Learning Plan) you will be able to complete the online ACLS HeartCode - Part 1. Once this is complete you can schedule the **ACLS Heartcode – Part 2- Skills Check** for Cert or Recert session by contacting Tonya Jones (Tonya.Jones2@uphs.upenn.edu, 215-893-7700). Students MUST print and bring with them to the skills session the certificate of completion from the online portion. See FAQs #10-13 for additional information.
- b. **ACLS Initial Certification:** for first-time certification or those who have lapsed by greater than one month.
 - I. **Traditional:** live, 1.5 day (11-12 hour) courses for a mix of learner types. Slowest paced, best for first-timers. To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: **ACLS Initial Provider 1.5 day-UPHS**
 - II. **Accelerated:** live, 1 day (9-10 hour) courses, recommended for more experienced providers (e.g. ED and ICU MDs and RNs). To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: **ACLS Initial Provider 1-day (accelerated)-UPHS**
 - III. **ACLS HeartCode (Web-based):** See 3.a.II above for details and FAQs #10-13 below for additional information.

c. **ACLS Challenge:** a live, two-hour session including a written exam and demonstration of CPR and megacode skills. For only the most experienced providers who need NO review of material. Those who do not pass must take a full ACLS course. This version of the course is scheduled directly with the AHA Program Director and available on a limited basis.

4. How should I prepare for ACLS?

- a. Buy or otherwise obtain the ACLS Provider manual (see #9 below).
- b. As needed, review the material (rhythms, pharmacology, etc) on the AHA student website (www.heart.org/eccstudent password: compression)
- c. Take the pre-test (Pre-course self-assessment), also on the website.
- d. For re-cert courses, bring your current ACLS provider card with you.
- e. Review the ACLS algorithms in the Provider Manual

5. Which PALS course should I take?

The Sim Center offers PALS re-certification and initial certification:

- a. **PALS Re-certification:** for trainees who have been previously certified and whose certification has not lapsed by more than one month. Live (1 day, 7-8 hour) courses. To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: [Pediatric Advanced Life Support \(PALS\) Recertification-UPHS](#)
- b. **PALS Initial Certification:** for first-time certification or those who have lapsed by greater than one month. Live, 1.5 day (11-12 hour) courses for a mix of learner types. To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: [Pediatric Advanced Life Support \(PALS\) Initial Certification-UPHS](#)
- c. **PALS HeartCode (Initial or Recertification):** an online (5-8 hours), web-based version of the traditional PALS course; must be followed by live, 1-2 hour, in-person skills practice/testing at the Sim Center. Maximum convenience, but challenging and not recommended for inexperienced providers. Students MUST print and bring with them to the skills session the certificate of completion from the online portion. The online HeartCode course requires approval from the Sim Center. To request approval, in KnowledgeLink, self-assign the [PALS Cert/Recert Curriculum \(HeartCode Online Course and Skills Check\)](#) and click "Request Approval" button next to [PALS HeartCode – Part 1: Welcome Letter/Pledge/Online Course](#). Once your request is approved (by email or see your KnowledgeLink Learning Plan) you will be able to complete the online PALS HeartCode - Part 1. Once this is complete you can schedule the [PALS HeartCode – Part 2- Skills Check](#) for Cert or Recert session by contacting Tonya Jones (Tonya.Jones2@uphs.upenn.edu, 215-893-7700). See FAQs #10-13 for additional information.

6. Which BCLS (BLS, CPR) course should I take?

The Sim Center currently offers only live BCLS courses; we may offer online courses in the near future. All live courses offered cover the same material and are valid for either an initial provider or recertification. To enroll, select this option in Knowledge Link: [Basic Cardiac Life Support \(BCLS/CPR\) Certification – UPHS](#).

7. I cannot see the courses I need on Knowledge Link, or I'm having trouble registering.

What do I do?

There are several possibilities:

- a. You are already registered for a course. If this is the case, you won't be able to register for another course of the same type until you drop the previously registered course.
- b. You may be unable to see a course if you are not eligible to take it; in that case, speak with your manager or supervisor.
- c. Other than 1 or 2, the Sim Center can't help here; you must contact the IS Service Desk directly (215-662-7474 or HD@uphs.upenn.edu).

8. I'm not BCLS (BLS, CPR)-certified or my BLS certification has lapsed. Can I still take ACLS or PALS?

- a. BLS-certification is not required to take ACLS; what is required is the ability to do competent CPR. CPR will be reviewed during the ACLS course, but if you feel you need more training, you should take a BLS (CPR) course.
- b. Current BLS certification is a requirement for PALS instruction; you will not be taught how to do CPR or how to use an AED as part of the PALS course. The PALS course requires trainees to pass the child 1-rescuer CPR/AED and Infant 1 & 2-rescuer CPR skills test.
- c. Depending on your position, the health system, your hospital, or your division or department may require you to be CPR-certified; contact your department administrator to find out.

9. How do I get the ACLS or PALS textbook?

Purchase of the ACLS and PALS Provider Manual is recommended for all live ACLS and PALS courses; HeartCode trainees will have access to the manual through the online program. The manual will be available for reference at all live courses. The 2015 ACLS and PALS Provider Manuals are available for purchase at the Sim Center, occasionally at Barnes and Noble, and online at www.laerdal.com and www.amazon.com.

10. What is an ACLS or PALS or BLS Skills Check? Can I take one instead of a regular ACLS or PALS or BLS course?

Skills Checks (ACLS HeartCode – Part 2- Skills Check and PALS Heartcode – Part 2 – Skills Check) are 1-2 hour sessions which include in-person skills practice and a skills testing of airway management, CPR, and megacode skills. They are offered weekly and should be scheduled once the online ACLS HeartCode - Part 1 program (or PALS HeartCode) is completed. Skills Checks do not substitute for regular ACLS courses. BLS Skills Checks (BLS Heartcode – Part 2- Skills Check) must follow completion of an online BLS Heartcode course.

11. I need an Initial Provider Course; can I still take ACLS HeartCode?

Yes. HeartCode may be used for both Initial Provider certification and Re-certification. We do not recommend HeartCode for initial certification of inexperienced providers.

12. How do I get access to the ACLS, PALS or BLS HeartCode online programs? What if I don't have a computer?

Approval from the Sim Center is required to obtain access to any of the online HeartCode - Part 1 programs. See 3.a.III above for information about obtaining access. Once you've received approval and completed the online course, schedule the appropriate (ACLS, PALS, BLS) HeartCode – Part 2- Skills Check by contacting Tonya Jones at the Sim Center (Tonya.Jones2@uphs.upenn.edu, 215-893-7700). If you do not have access to a computer you are welcome to use one at the Sim Center. Heartcode may not be compatible with some browsers on Mac computers.

13. I've reviewed the online material that came with the ACLS Provider Manual. Can I schedule a Skills Check?

No. ACLS HeartCode – Part 2- Skills Check must be scheduled only after completing online ACLS HeartCode - Part 1, the web-based version of the ACLS course.

14. I lost my ACLS/BLS or PALS certification card and need a replacement.

The Sim Center will email a photocopy of your valid certification card at no charge provide or will provide a hard copy of a replacement card for a fee of \$5. Mail or drop off your check payment along with your name, the date you completed the course and where you would like the card sent to:

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