

saving lives is why



2015 Guidelines Blended Learning

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Dear US AHA Training Network,

As we recently shared with you, following the release of the 2015 AHA Guidelines for CPR & ECC, we'll begin releasing training materials updated to reflect both new science guidelines and instructional design changes. Our team is working hard to ensure AHA's educational methodologies for delivering exceptional training continues to support the evolving changes in science and technology as well the needs of you and your students.

Over the next few months, we'll share our updated training materials being designed in accordance with these transforming methodologies. We'll start by briefing you here on AHA's definition of "blended" learning.

You've seen the preliminary product release schedule, which is now posted on the [AHA Instructor Network](#), and may be wondering, "What is Basic Life Support (BLS) Blended?"

AHA Blended Learning

With the evolution of learning technology, we have the opportunity to provide healthcare providers and other students with more flexible training options. Equally important, we have the opportunity to make sure that your time as an AHA Instructor is spent most effectively in the classroom perfecting students' skills and ensuring they have the most up-to-date information and tools to perform high-quality lifesaving skills outside of your classroom.

Blended learning helps afford you this opportunity.

Blended learning uses online technology to not only supplement, but transform and improve the learning process. Successful blended learning occurs when technology and teaching inform one another: material becomes dynamic when it successfully reaches students with varying learning styles and in different environments. *Flipping the classroom* is a concept of blended learning that combines eLearning, online education "pre-work", with Instructor-led classroom work.

The eLearning portion of a course could have a variety of media assets such as dramatizations, simulations, animations, self-directed learning and interactive activities and exercises that comprise the cognitive portion of the learning experience. The Instructor-led session then can focus on meaningful course review, debriefing, team scenarios, discussions of local protocols and skills testing.

Blended BLS Course

Specifically, the AHA's new blended BLS course will combine an eLearning course featuring interactive web-based scenarios similar to those you've seen in the current BLS for Prehospital Providers Course, with the eSimulation you've seen in HeartCode BLS to teach students cognitive information. After completing this portion, students will complete a hands-on skills session with either a voice-assisted manikin or by attending a classroom session. Both options offered in our blended learning solutions allow students to practice and test their skills in a way that meets their individual needs. Those who learn more effectively in a classroom environment can continue that process, while some might find the flexibility and interactive elements of an online portion stimulating. In either case, you will be able to adapt coursework to local protocols, conduct team-based scenarios and debrief to ensure the student is truly meeting the learning objectives.

Please also know that the BLS blended course will not be your only option for BLS training. Our BLS classroom course will not change, but skills practiced within the course will become more robust.

We're excited to introduce you to our blended learning methodology, developed with you in mind - and based on your feedback and best practices in training. Expect to hear much more from us on this and other tools and information designed to help you transition from new guidelines into new courses.

Thank you for all that you do to contribute to the AHA's mission to save more lives!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Meiners". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Meiners
Executive Vice President
Emergency Cardiovascular Care & Global Strategies