



Program Options Overview

SMR is proud to bring our clients a variety of options in emergency care certification programs. We are associated with the following educational organizations to deliver the highest quality in course material and design.

- American Heart Association – Aligned Training Site
- American Red Cross – Approved Training Provider
- Health Safety Institute – Approved Training Center
- National Safety Council – Approved Training Center
- Emergency Care & Safety Institute – Approved Education Center

The Emergency Care & Safety Institute (ECSI) is an organization that provides a variety of programs in association with the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). HSI is a for-profit organization with impressive instructor-driven programs that cater to businesses and industry. NSC is a non-profit organization that has a primary mission for workplace safety. Most public safety agencies and healthcare professional organizations mandate courses administrated by the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American Red Cross. Both are leading organizations renowned for their contributions to CPR and first aid training and both offer courses in BLS, ACLS and PALS. With a long-standing commitment to promoting cardiovascular health and emergency response, both organizations have earned widespread recognition and established strong reputations in the field of emergency cardiovascular care. They have long been recognized for their commitment to educating the public and equipping them with the necessary skills to respond effectively in emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest.



vs



**American
Red Cross**

American Heart Association (AHA)

The AHA is a globally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. With a history dating back to 1924, the AHA has been at the forefront of cardiovascular research, education, and advocacy. The AHA's CPR training programs are based on the latest scientific evidence and guidelines, ensuring participants receive the most up-to-date and effective training available. Their certification courses cater to various audiences, including medical professionals, workplace responders, and the public. The AHA's reputation for excellence in CPR training is bolstered by its extensive research, involvement in setting industry standards, and continuous collaboration with medical experts.



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is an international humanitarian organization with a long, distinguished history of military support and healthcare education. Established in 1881, the Red Cross has become synonymous with disaster response, blood donation, and first aid training. The organization's CPR and first aid training programs have played a vital role in equipping the military and front-line individuals with life-saving skills.

The Red Cross focuses on hands-on practice and real-life simulations to enhance learning outcomes. Their emphasis on practical training ensures that participants gain the necessary confidence and competence to respond effectively in emergency situations. The Red Cross's reputable track record in humanitarian aid further solidifies its standing as a trusted provider of emergency cardiovascular care.

The AHA and Red Cross offer training programs aimed at equipping individuals with life-saving skills. Both organizations offer a variety of learning options with classroom, blended, and online courses. While there are some similarities between the two organizations' programs, there are also notable differences. Here's a comparison of the CPR training programs offered by the AHA and the Red Cross:

- The AHA places a strong emphasis on evidence-based guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care. Their programs cover topics like adult, child, and infant CPR techniques, AED usage, choking relief, and basic life support skills. Practice guidelines are comprised of recommendations from the AHA and American College of Cardiology Task Force on Practice Guidelines. The AHA Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee (SACC) provides peer review with final approval by the AHA Executive Committee. <https://elearning.heart.org/>
- Red Cross programs also cover adult, child, and infant CPR techniques, AED usage, and choking relief. They incorporate hands-on practice and focus on building confidence and readiness to respond in emergency situations. A distinct role of the Red Cross is its dedication to lifeguard training and emergency response in the aquatic environment as published in the Red Cross Aquatic Guidelines and Best Practices Database. Emergency cardiovascular care is driven by the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council and published in the Red Cross Healthcare Guidelines Database. <https://www.redcrosslearningcenter.org/s/>



AHA & Red Cross Acceptance and Recognition

- Both AHA and ARC-issued certifications are widely recognized and accepted by employers, educational institutions, and regulatory bodies.
- AHA and Red Cross certifications, such as BLS, ACLS, and PALS, are highly valued in the healthcare industry. AHA and ARC certifications are both accepted by the LA Board of Medical Examiners, LA Bureau of EMS, and National Registry of EMTs.
- AHA is widely recognized as a source of continuing education by many leading accrediting agencies, including American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), accreditation Council for Continuing medical Education (ACCME), American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), National Registry of EMTs, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Maintenance of Certification program.
 - AHA CE Eligible Programs: BLS, ACLS, ACLS for Experienced Providers, PALS, PEARS, ASLS
- Red Cross certificate holders may claim CAPCE (Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education) continuing education credits that provide accreditation specifically for EMS professionals. This Red Cross platform makes it easy for participants to access CAPCE CE credits instantly. The Red Cross is also jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), American Medical Association (AMA), National Registry of EMTs, and American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA).
 - Red Cross CE Eligible Programs: BLS, ALS, PALS, Professional Rescuer CPR/AED, NALS (2025), Procedural Sedation (2025)

