

Instructor Hierarchy

American Red Cross courses vary in the level of knowledge, skills and content as do the instructor certifications required to teach these courses. As a result, some instructors who have certifications can teach other courses the Red Cross offers after completing a self-orientation to the course and the course materials (as indicated by a “Yes” in the chart below). In other cases, instructors who have certain certifications qualify to participate in an abbreviated instructor bridge course to become certified to teach other Red Cross programs. See the chart below for the hierarchy of certifications and check Red Cross Learning Center/Instructor Lifecycle/Bridging for information about specific bridge courses.

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification							
	EMR Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	BLS Instructor	CPRO Instructor	FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	ALS Instructor	PALS Instructor
Advanced Life Support	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Babysitter’s Training	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	No	Online Bridge	No	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED
Basic Life Support	Yes	Online Bridge	Yes	Online Bridge	No	No	With cert in BLS	With cert in BLS
Bloodborne Pathogens Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
California Child Care	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers	Yes	Yes	Online Bridge	Yes	Online Bridge	No	Yes	Yes

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification Certifications							
	EMR Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	BLS Instructor	CPRO Instructor	FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	ALS Instructor	PALS Instructor
Emergency Medical Response	Yes	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	No	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO	Online Bridge with a license/certification as an athletic trainer, state first responder, EMT, Paramedic, RN, MD, or DO
First Aid/CPR/AED (lay responder) Includes: Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR, Adult AED, Child AED, Infant AED, First Aid, BBP	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	With basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	Online Bridge	Yes	No	With a basic or instructor level certification in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid (or equivalent) or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	With a basic or instructor level certification in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid (or equivalent) or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer
First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (California Title 22)	Yes	Yes	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and hold basic-level certification in FAPSP	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and hold basic-level certification in FAPSP	If also an instructor in Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer	No	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer	If also an instructor in First Aid/CPR/AED and Basic Life Support or CPR for the Professional Rescuer
Hands-Only CPR – no instructor requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Basic-Level Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Certification							
	EMR Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	BLS Instructor	CPRO Instructor	FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	ALS Instructor	PALS Instructor
Learn-to-Swim	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Lifeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Attraction LG • Shallow Water LG • Lifeguarding • Waterpark • Waterfront • CPRO 	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Longfellow's WHALE Tales – no instructor requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pediatric Advanced Life Support	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Responding to Emergencies	Online Bridge for FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Online Bridge for FA/CPR/AED Instructor	No	No	Yes	No	See requirements for teaching FA/CPR/AED on page 2.	See requirements for teaching FA/CPR/AED on page 2.
Safety Training for Swim Coaches	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Water Safety presentations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilderness & Remote First Aid	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	No	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	Bridge	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED	Bridge after meeting requirements to teach FA/CPR/AED

Wilderness & Remote First Aid Instructors (WFRA) are only certified to teach WRFA. Basic Water Rescue Instructors are only certified to teach Basic Water Rescue.

Skill Boost	American Red Cross Instructor Certification							
	EMR Instructor	Lifeguarding Instructor	BLS Instructor	CPRO Instructor	FA/CPR/AED Instructor	Water Safety Instructor	ALS Instructor	PALS Instructor
Administering Emergency Oxygen (AEO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Anaphylaxis and Epinephrine Auto-Injector Administration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Asthma and Quick-Relief Medication Administration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Head, Neck, Muscle, Bone and Joint Injuries and Splinting	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	No	Online Bridge	No	No	No
Life-Threatening Bleeding and Tourniquet Application	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	No	Online Bridge	No	No	No
Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Administration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Instructor Trainer Hierarchy

Instructor trainers who have certain certifications qualify to participate in an abbreviated online instructor trainer bridge course to become certified to teach other Red Cross instructor programs. Check Red Cross Learning Center/Instructor Lifecycle/Bridging for information about specific qualifications, bridge courses, and instructions to apply and access bridges. Note, Babysitter’s Training instructor trainers can teach Babysitter’s Training Instructor courses. Basic Water Rescue instructor trainers can teach Basic Water Rescue Instructor courses.

Instructor Courses	American Red Cross Instructor Trainer Certification								
	EMR IT	BLS IT	Lifeguarding IT	CPRO IT	FA/CPR/AED IT	Water Safety IT	ALS IT	PALS IT	WRFA IT
ALS Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
BLS Instructor	Online Bridge	Yes	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No
CPRO Instructor	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No
EMR Instructor	Yes	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	No
First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Online Bridge	w/ basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	Online Bridge	Online Bridge	Yes	No	w/ basic or instructor cert. in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	w/ basic or instructor cert. in BLS plus one of the following: A basic-level certification in First Aid or a license as an MD, DO, RN, EMT, Paramedic or Athletic Trainer	No
Lifeguarding Instructor & LGI/LGIT Recertification	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
PALS Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Water Safety Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Basic Swim Instructor	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Wilderness and Remote First Aid Instructor	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	No	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	No	Bridge with current basic-certification in WRFA, FA, EMR or Lifeguarding	No	No	No	Yes

