

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course: EMS 165

Credits: 1

Course Title: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

Course Description: Prepares for certification as an Advanced Cardiac Life provider. Follows course as defined by the American Heart Association. Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) builds on the foundation of Basic Life Support (BLS), emphasizing the importance of continuous, high-quality CPR. The hands-on instruction and simulated cases in this advanced course are designed to help enhance skills in the recognition and intervention of cardiopulmonary arrest, immediate post-cardiac arrest, acute arrhythmia, stroke, and acute coronary syndromes. Prerequisites: EMS 100, 153 or equivalent; current Virginia EMT and CPR certification as approved by the Virginia Office of EMS. Lecture 1 hour per week.

General Course Purpose: The course stresses critical thinking skills to help practitioners make the best decisions for emergency cardiac care of patients and prepares students for successful completion of the ACLS credential.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisites: EMS 100, 153 or equivalent; current Virginia EMT and CPR certification as approved by the Virginia Office of EMS

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- Recognize and apply emergency cardiac care at both the Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Levels

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Basic life support skills, including effective chest compressions, use of a bag-mask device, and use of an AED
- b. Recognition and early management of respiratory and cardiac arrest
- c. Recognition and early management of peri-arrest conditions such as symptomatic bradycardia
- d. Airway management
- e. Related pharmacology
- f. Management of ACS and stroke
- g. Effective communication as a member and leader of a resuscitation team

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