



January 16, 2024

Division of Physician Assistant  
Education

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Dear Class of 2026,

In anticipation of the start of your academic year, you will need Basic Life Support (BLS) certification designed for Health Care Providers. This is not the type of certification designed for the lay public. Your certification must show an expiration date of June 2025 or later. The reason for this requirement is that during your ½ day a week of clinical practicum (mentoring), you will be in contact with patients in a clinical setting. The BLS certification is required by the program to enable you to participate in these clinical settings.

Please upload a current BLS certificate for health care providers (front and back) to your Student Folder by 6/24/24.

If your current BLS certification is not valid through June 25 or you have never been BLS certified, you can contact your local chapter of the American Heart Association to inquire about registering for potential classes.

Prior to the start of your clinical year (summer 2025), you will be enrolled in an Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) course. In addition, students will be required to recertify BLS at that time to keep their certification active throughout the clinical year.

We hope this information clearly explains the BLS requirement. If not, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [paprgm@ohsu.edu](mailto:paprgm@ohsu.edu).

Thank you,  
PA Program Faculty