

Communication Skills for Instructors

Good communication skills are essential to be an effective ASHI or MEDIC First Aid instructor and to help students build the confidence to respond in a medical emergency.

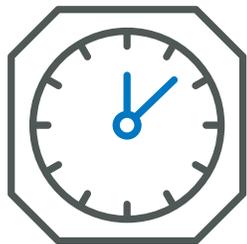
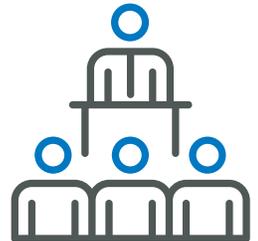
When communicating with your students:

- + Always be honest
- + Protect confidentiality
- + Address people directly
- + Treat others how you wanted to be treated by them



Behaviors associated with effective speakers include:

- + Maintaining eye contact
- + Speaking clearly and distinctly
- + Using amplification if necessary
- + Using understandable language
- + Using humor appropriately
- + Using respectful forms of address
- + Treating all students the same



Master the art of timing:

Learn to read your audience to determine when to move on to a new topic or when to reiterate an idea.



Video yourself to improve your speaking skills:

Practice changes to your approach and then record yourself again to measure your improvement.

Learn the basics of nonverbal communication:

- + Adopt proper posture
- + Avoid folding your arms or making yourself appear smaller than you are and fill up the space you are given
- + Maintain eye contact
- + Move around the space in which you are presenting



Add novelty to improve content retention:

People generally retain more information when presented with novel, as opposed to routine, situations. Add an unexpected element to your class presentation, like something humorous or something that simply catches people by surprise.