



Wake Forest University Publicly Accessible Defibrillation Q & A

What's public access defibrillation?

Public access defibrillation (PAD) means providing access to AEDs in public and/or private places. A copy of the [University PAD Program Policy](#) is located on the EHS website.

What is an AED?

The automated external defibrillator (AED) is an electronic medical device. An AED can check a person's heart rhythm. It can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock. It can then advise the rescuer when a shock is needed. The AED uses voice prompts, lights, and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take.

AEDs are very accurate and easy to use. Anyone can operate an AED safely. There are many different brands of AEDs, but the same basic steps apply to all of them. The American Heart Association (AHA) does not recommend a specific model.

What's the AHA position on the placement of AEDs?

The AHA strongly advocates that all first-response vehicles and ambulances be equipped with an AED or another defibrillation device (semiautomatic or manual defibrillator). The AHA also supports placing AEDs in targeted public areas such as sports areas, gates communities, office complexes, doctor's offices, gyms, shopping malls, etc. All WFU Police patrol cars and both WFEMS (student EMT) vehicles have an AED. All other unit locations can be found on the [EHS website](#).

Why is notifying the local EMS important?

It's important for the local EMS system to know where AEDs are located in the community. In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest emergency, the 9-1-1 dispatcher will know if an AED is on the premises and will be able to notify the EMS system as well as the responders already on the scene. [Here's a link to the same map shared with Forsyth County EMS](#).

Why should people who are responsible for operating an AED receive CPR training?

Early CPR is an integral part of providing lifesaving aid to people suffering sudden cardiac arrest. CPR helps to circulate oxygen-rich blood to the heart and brain. After the AED is attached and delivers a shock, the typical AED will prompt the operator to continue CPR while the device continues to analyze the victim. CPR/AED training is available to all WFU faculty/staff/students. Students can contact James Perrott in Deacon Health at perrotja@wfu.edu to schedule a class.

If AEDs are so easy to use, why do people need formal training to use them?

An AED operator must know how to recognize the signs of a sudden cardiac arrest, when to activate the EMS system, and how to do CPR. It's also important for operators to receive formal training on the AED model they will use so that they become familiar with the device and can successfully operate it in an emergency. Training also teaches the operator how to avoid potentially hazardous situations. The more familiar a person is with the device, the higher the likelihood they will use it.

How can I enroll in a CPR/AED class?

Students can contact James Perrott (perrotja@wfu.edu) in Deacon Health to sign up.

What do I do if hear an AED cabinet beeping/chirping?

If you hear a cabinet beeping/chirping anywhere on campus or at any off-campus WFU-owned property, contact Bridget Marrs in Environmental, Health, and Safety at marrsbs@wfu.edu or contact FCS Customer Service (HALL) at 758-4255.