

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program at UC

In the event a student, employee or visitor suffers a cardiac event or cardiac arrest while they are at UC, emergency assistance can be summoned immediately by calling 911 from any campus phone, using a blue Help Phone, or by calling 556-1111 on a cellular phone. The University of Cincinnati has Automated External Defibrillators and personnel trained to operate them deployed in several different locations. This includes:

- Police patrol vehicles (4)
- Campus Recreation Center (2)
- Athletic Department (for varsity and intramural games)
- University Health Services (1 in response van, 2 in clinics)

This allows us to have an AED on the scene within the five minutes as recommended by the American Heart Association. In partnership with University Hospital Mobile Care and the Cincinnati Fire Department, we also dispatch a mobile Advanced Life Support Unit, which normally is on-scene well within the recommended 10 minute time frame.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why doesn't the University place AEDs in public areas, as many shopping malls or airports do? We elected not to place units in buildings as a general approach for several reasons. The first is the scope of the University. With over 100 buildings, and needing to have multiple units in each building, this would be a very expensive and time consuming program to operate. AEDs must be tested and maintained on a regular basis. There was also a concern with the tracking and accountability of hundreds of units. The second reason we took the approach we did was because of the training and education required. The Police department, University Health Services, Athletics, and the Recreation Center were willing to purchase the units, and do the required annual training and certification of their staff to use the devices. The current deployment strategy allows us to deliver an AED with a trained operator to the scene within the desired five minute window.
2. If my department or college wants to have an AED, how do we do that? Should your department be interested in joining the AED program, please feel free to contact the Office of Emergency Services at 556-4909 or Dr. John Andrews at University Health Services at 556-6710.
3. What kind of AEDs does UC use? We use a LifePack unit that is compatible with the advanced units carried by University Mobile Care and Cincinnati Fire Department.
4. How much does an AED cost? The basic AED used at UC costs approximately \$3,000.
5. What training does an AED user need? Both the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross offer the required CPR/AED class.
6. Who is the medical director for the University's AED program? Dr. John Andrews, the Director of University Health Services is the medical director for our program.
7. What can I do to help my fellow members of the UC community? Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Classes are available through the Campus Recreation Center and Public Safety.