

American University Public Access Defibrillation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

American University has initiated a public access defibrillation (PAD) program. Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are strategically placed throughout campus to assist in providing an optimal response time for a person experiencing cardiac arrest. AU has partnered with Serve DC to provide training to AU community members.

What is public access to defibrillation?

Public access to defibrillation (PAD) means making AEDs available in public places where large numbers of people gather.

What is an AED?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a computerized medical device that can check a person's heart rhythm and advise when shock is needed. The AED uses voice prompts and lights to tell the rescuer the steps to take. AEDs are very accurate and easy to use. While there are several different brands, all of them apply the same basic steps.

Can AEDs be used on children?

Children over 55 pounds or over the age of 8 can be treated with a standard AED. For children under 55 pounds or age 8 and under, there is a pediatric key which will automatically change the settings for a child.

How are the AEDs maintained?

The AED Program Coordinator should check and record the AEDs on a monthly basis. At minimum, the following should be checked:

- Device is not beeping
- Status indicator in upper right corner indicates it is "Rescue-Ready" (Green light flickering, checkbox appears, or hour glass symbol appears)
- Electrode pads are not expired
- All accessories (e.g. disposable mouth guards) are present and in good order
- There are no obstacles in front of the AED

Do the AEDs perform a self-check?

Yes, all AEDs perform daily, weekly and monthly self-maintenance. Daily, the devices will check the battery, the pads and ensure that the internal circuitry is in proper working order. If the device passes all self-tests, it is considered ready for use. If it does not pass the tests, your device will begin beeping. If your AED is beeping and/or displaying an error message contact the AED Program Coordinator at 202-885-2722 or jagoe@american.edu.

What should I do if I suspect someone is in cardiac arrest?

If you suspect someone is in cardiac arrest, you should activate the EMS System by:

- Calling Public Safety at 202-885-3636.
- Provide care to the victim according to their training and/or scope of practice. This may include CPR/AED to a victim until local EMS arrives and assumes care of the victim.
- Other volunteers not directly assisting with the care of the victim should assist by providing crowd control, documentation, relieving tired rescuers or assisting in other appropriate ways.

What should I expect after an event where the AED was used?

Official documentation of an event where an AED was used will be completed by responders on the scene. The AED Program Coordinator may follow up with you for any questions.

Where are AEDs located?

- All Public Safety vehicles
- 4401 Connecticut Avenue Lobby
- Asbury – rear receiving area
- Beeghly Main Hall
- Bender Library Lobby
- Bender Arena Mezzanine Level
- Child Development Center
- Greenberg Theater
- Hurst Building Lobby
- Katzen Main Hall
- Kay Spiritual Center Lobby
- Kogod Building Terrace Level
- Mary Graydon Center Lobby
- SIS Lobby
- Student Health Center
- Ward Circle Building Lobby