

Requirements for Scientific Diver Certification

The steps to become a Certified Scientific Diver at the University of Washington (UW) are outlined below.

1. Obtain sponsorship for scientific diving by an appropriate University department or unit.
 - *This provides a project for the diver to complete the required on-the-job training.*
 - *Applicants who do not have a departmental sponsor and want to learn to be scientific divers can complete the Scientific Diver Course at [UW Friday Harbor Labs](#). This course meets the requirements for full Scientific Diver certification as outlined below, and includes research projects for students to receive dive training. Divers must provide documentation of a minimum of 20 logged dives as a prerequisite for admission into this scientific diving course.*
2. Read the [UW Diving Safety Manual](#).
 - *UW divers must understand and follow the safety, procedural, and medical requirements outlined in the manual.*
3. Complete and submit the [Diving Registration Form](#) to the UW Diving Safety Officer.
 - *This form must be signed by the department official sponsoring the diver (e.g., principal investigator, department chair)*
 - *Submission of this form is a onetime requirement while at the UW. The form is resubmitted if any diver information changes.*
4. Complete and submit documentation of recreational SCUBA diver training to UW Diving Safety Officer.
 - *Diving applicants must have completed a recreational SCUBA diving training course as a pre-requisite for scientific diving certification at the UW.*
 - *Recreational SCUBA diving training must be provided by a recognized and qualified organization (e.g., PADI, NAUI, SSI, IANTD, TDI).*
 - *This is a 40 hour classroom and open water training, and includes fives dives.*
5. Obtain Diving Medical Clearance from the UW Employee Health Center.
 - *Applicants (students included) must first contact the UW Employee Health Center (EHC) to obtain necessary information for completing a dive physical and for transfer of medical records. EHC will explain the options and requirements. Contact EHC at 206-685-1026 or email at emphlth@uw.edu.*
 - *Results of the diving medical review (without confidential medical information) will be sent to each diver and their supervisor by the Diving Safety Officer.*
 - *The frequency of the dive physical is based on age and the medical determination.*
 - *Fees for the medical exam are billed separately to the sponsoring department or to the student directly.*
6. Complete the EH&S First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Emergency Oxygen treatment course.
 - *This is a five hour classroom training class. It is required initially and then every two years.*
 - *If this training has been completed, provide documentation of completion.*

<p>7. Complete and pass the UW written Diving Safety Exam covering basic SCUBA, First Aid/CPR, Oxygen treatment, and emergency procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A score of 80% is required to pass. All incorrect answers are reviewed with the divers to verify that they understand the course content. ▪ The course is required initially.
<p>8. Complete a check-out dive to demonstrate proficiency in rescue skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The checkout dive is generally four to five hours in duration. ▪ It will include an examination of equipment. ▪ It may include a swim test. ▪ Additional checkout dives may be required if dive requirements have expired or if divers need additional training to demonstrate proficiency.
<p>9. Complete additional theoretical aspects and practical training beyond the diver-in-training permit level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A minimum cumulative time of 100 hours is required. ▪ This is included in the On-the-Job Training and in the Scientific Diver Course offered at Friday Harbor Labs.
<p>Divers who complete the Friday Harbor Labs Scientific Diver Training Course will meet the above requirements to become a UW scientific diver.</p>

After completing steps above you will receive an email from the DSO with instructions to register and log future dives on the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) website. You are a diver-in-training until you have completed and logged at least 12 dives. Then you are certified to dive at 30 feet deep. Approval for diving at 60, 90, and 100 feet deep requires an additional 12 dives per year for each depth.

<p>Requirements to maintain Scientific Diver Certification at the UW are outlined below.</p>
<p>1. Complete and log a minimum of 12 dives per year.</p>
<p>2. Submit an annual Dive Plan to the DSO for review and approval. This is for diving in Washington, Oregon, southeast Alaska, and British Columbia. For all dives outside of this area, submit a dive plan and emergency plans to the DSO for approval prior to diving.</p>
<p>3. For any dive past 100 feet deep, submit a Dive Plan to the DSO for approval prior to diving.</p>
<p>4. Submit a Diving Equipment Maintenance Form to the DSO annually. All dive gear must be tested annually by a certified technician (e.g., PADI, SCUBA Pro). Gear to be tested includes (but is not limited to) the regulator, buoyancy compensating device, dry suit, tank.</p>
<p>5. Meet additional requirements for approval for nitrox, mixed gas, and blue water diving are outlined in the Diving Safety Manual.</p>

For questions about becoming a certified scientific diver or the Diving Safety Program, contact EH&S Diving Safety at divesafe@uw.edu.