



OPEN WATER SCUBA CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION



Thank you for your interest in learning to become a competent SCUBA Diver!

The first class meeting is in a lecture room in the Rec Cen at 6pm in the location on your receipt and the Rec Cen pool at 8pm. You must bring your ID. You will not be allowed entrance into the Rec Cen without it. Only proficient swimmers will be accepted into the class. You will be expected to pass a water skills evaluation at the first class meeting; 300 yards (12 pool widths) in less than ten minutes, swim 25 yards underwater, and 20 min. tread water / survival float. Please bring a bathing suit, towel, and notebook to the first class.

Class will meet twice a week: Monday and Wednesday (or Tuesday and Thursday) from 6pm -10pm. A minimum of five ocean dives are required for certification: 1 skin dive and 4 SCUBA dives. These dives may be scheduled on weekdays or weekends. Please keep your schedule open near the end and after the class. Your instructor will confirm the dates for your ocean dives during the first night of class. **100% attendance is required** in order to become certified.

You should be aware that there will be expenses other than the basic class fee which pays for instruction, tanks, buoyancy compensators, regulators and wet suits (wet suits are for ocean dives only, you provide your own wet suit for pool sessions). You provide your own personal equipment (SCUBA quality: mask, fins, snorkel, booties and gloves). The cost of these items can range from **\$200-\$400 (or more)** depending on the style you choose. Please read the information below on buying gear from a local shop. A **\$110** fee is paid to the instructor for your certification card, books, and student materials. There is also a **\$145** (approx.) boat dive to the Channel Islands.

Satisfactory completion of the course will entitle you to become a certified SCUBA diver. This means students must demonstrate to the instructor that they will be competent divers in order to receive a certification card. You are responsible to finish the class during your session. If you need additional training it is your responsibility to make the arrangements with your individual instructor. Additional fees may be charged for missed dives: \$40 for missed dive days and \$39 per day for dive equipment. If you can not make the schedule for any reason, it is your responsibility to discuss options with the instructor. Options may include a "referral" which can be taken to any other SCUBA instructor willing to continue with your training at additional expense.

We need 8 people to run a class. If class is canceled, we will refund your class fee. If the class is full, put your name on the wait list and go to the first class meeting. If space is available, the instructor will begin adding students in order on the list.

For your own safety, please do not sign up for this class unless you can read and speak English fluently. We may have referrals to bilingual instructors; please inquire.

Refund Policy: Once an offering is **full**, you will be offered a refund per the schedule below **only** if someone **pays** for your spot. If the offering is **NOT** full:

- **30 or more days** before the course date- Full refund (-\$20 processing fee).
- **29 to 8 days** before the course date- 50% refund (-\$20 processing fee).
- **Fewer than 8 days** before the course date- no refunds available.

(Over)

LOCAL SCUBA DIVING STORES

As a new diving student, you will need some basic personal diving equipment of SCUBA quality (mask, fins, snorkel, booties, gloves, etc.). The price of this equipment will vary depending on where you buy it and which styles you choose. Regardless of where you make your purchase, it is important to know what to look for in quality equipment. You should shop around, compare prices and ask questions at any of the local dive stores before your first class session. **HOWEVER, WE DO RECOMMEND THAT YOU MEET WITH AND DISCUSS YOUR BASIC NEEDS WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR FINAL PURCHASE DECISION.** There will be little time to shop around after the first class, so the preliminaries should be done prior to the class.

There are SCUBA diving stores in the Goleta and Santa Barbara area. Many offer discounts to UCSB dive class students. Some offer low prices without discounts. Your concerns when purchasing equipment should be focused on quality, price, service and guarantees.

We very highly recommend that you **DO NOT** buy your life support equipment ONLINE especially when you can buy locally for the same price. Shop online if you wish but then buy locally. Local dive centers will match all Manufacturer Advertised Prices (MAP) you may find online and then give you additional service including: 1) Expert counseling to assist your purchase of the best gear for you that is guaranteed to fit, 2) Guarantee you'll like it, 3) Gear assembly with check on your dive system, 4) Free labor and parts for any defects for 1 year, and 5) they'll even ship free if desired. Furthermore, this SCUBA class is very fast paced and you will not have time to return gear that does not fit, breaks or turns out to be inferior quality for scuba diving in our local waters.

Remember, you are buying life support equipment that is custom fit for you and your body. Don't compromise your or your dive buddy's safety, comfort and enjoyment underwater. **DON'T BUY ONLINE, BUY FROM LOCAL DIVE CENTERS.**

Local Dive Shops

Goleta Area

Santa Barbara Aquatics
5822 Hollister Ave.
805-967-4456

<https://www.santabarbaraquatics.com/>

Santa Barbara Area

Bluewater Hunter
Santa Barbara Harbor Breakwater
805-294-0013

<http://www.blueh20.com/>

As part of your class fee you will be provided wetsuits (for the ocean dives only), tanks, regulators, buoyancy compensators (BC) and weights. These items are rented by the university from one of the local dive stores. **You are responsible to get fitted for your wetsuit and equipment.** You should visit the store well in advance of your first scheduled dive. You can help make this class a totally pleasurable experience by not waiting to the last minute regarding your responsibilities.

We look forward to diving with you!