



OPEN WATER SCUBA CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION



Thank you for your interest in learning to become a competent SCUBA Diver! Please thoroughly read all information prior to registration.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements: For everyone's safety please ensure you are able to meet all requirements prior to registration:

- At least **18 years old** (or 16-17 y/o currently registered UCSB Student)
- Read, Speak, Understand **fluent English**
- Pass a water skills/ swimming proficiency evaluation at the first class (Please bring a bathing suit, towel, notebook, and ID to the first class):
 - **300 yards** (12 pool widths) in less than **ten minutes**
 - Swim **25 yards underwater** on one initial breath
 - **20 min. tread** water / survival float.
- **100% Attendance** to all lectures, pool training, ocean dives
- Pass **written exam**
- Demonstrate **competent dive skills** in the pool and ocean

Where to meet: UCSB Recreation Center Classroom location will be on your registration receipt. **You must bring an ID.** You will not be allowed entrance into the Rec Cen without it.

Schedule: 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 are responsible to finish the class during your session. If you cannot make the schedule for any reason, it is your responsibility to discuss options with the instructor. If you need additional training it is your responsibility to make 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. Options may include a "referral" which can be taken to any other SCUBA instructor willing to continue with your training at additional expense.

Fees and Additional Expenses: Please budget for ALL fees prior to registration. Registration fee will be collected at time of sign up. Personal equipment will be paid to dive shop. Additional fees for materials and boat will be paid directly to the instructor.

- Course Registration Fee (includes instruction, weights, tanks, air, buoyancy compensator device (BCD), regulators and wetsuits for ocean diving): **\$119/\$159** (UCSB Students/ All Others)
- Personal equipment (SCUBA quality mask, fins, snorkel, booties, gloves) variable based on selection: **\$300-\$400+**
- Books, student materials, certification card, etc.: **\$100**
- Boat check out dive to the beautiful Channel Islands: **\$155**

Waitlist: Our registration system doesn't have a proper wait list feature. If the class is full, go to the first class meeting. If space becomes available due to no shows or someone is not able to pass the swim test, the instructor will begin adding students.

(Over)

Certification: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, participants will receive an Open Water SCUBA certification card from an internationally recognized agency (usually SSI or NAUI depending on the instructor). PADI has done a very good job marketing and convincing new divers that theirs is the only certification that may be used internationally. SSI and NAUI are internationally recognized, equivalent to PADI, and in some cases even better. Feel free to discuss with your instructor if concerned.

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.

Personal equipment and local dive shops: As a new diving student, you will need some basic personal diving equipment of SCUBA quality (mask, fins, snorkel, booties, gloves, etc.) which is custom fit. 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. We **DO NOT RECOMMEND** buying online. Your life literally depends on your gear and a proper fit can only be achieved with the help of professionals. You should shop around, compare prices and ask questions at any of the local dive stores before your first class session. 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 do recommend, however, you discuss your basic needs with your instructor the first night before you make your final purchase decision. You will need your gear the second class meeting with little time to shop around after the first class so preliminary shopping should be done prior to the class.

Again, we very highly recommend and cannot emphasize enough that you **DO NOT** buy your life support equipment online especially when you can buy locally for the same price. Local dive centers will typically 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.**

Goleta Area

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

<https://www.santabarbaraaquatics.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 with a wetsuit (for the ocean dives only), tank, regulator, buoyancy compensator device (BCD) 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!