

## 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.

- 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.

### 2. Read the [UW Diving Safety Manual](#).

- UW divers must understand and follow the safety, procedural, and medical requirements outlined in the manual and submit a signed copy of the Dive Manual Acknowledgement form.

### 3. Complete and submit the [Diving Registration Form](#) to the UW Diving Safety Officer (DSO).

- 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 DSO.

- 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 nationally recognized organization (e.g., PADI, NAUI, SSI, IANTD, TDI).

### 5. Obtain Diving Medical Clearance from the UW Employee Health Center.

- Applicants will 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](mailto: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 Scientific Diver First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and Emergency Oxygen Administration course.

- This is a five hour classroom training class. It is required initially and then every two years, please see [the EH&S Training Page](#) for details.
- If this training has been completed, provide documentation of completion.

<p><b>7. Complete and pass confined water checkout dive and swim evaluation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The confined water checkout dive and pool session is generally four hours in duration.</li> <li>▪ It will include an examination of equipment.</li> <li>▪ The swim evaluation is comprised of a 400 yard timed swim completed in less than 12 minutes, a 25 yard underwater swim on a single breath, a 25 yard tired buddy tow, and a 10 minute water tread with the last 2 minutes being hands out of the water. Additional checkout dives may be required if dive requirements have expired or if divers need additional training to demonstrate proficiency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Complete open water check-out dive.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The open water checkout dive is generally four to five hours in duration.</li> <li>▪ The checkout involves skills that demonstrate comfort in the water and rescue skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Complete additional theoretical aspects and practical training beyond the diver-in-training permit level.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A minimum cumulative time of 100 hours is required.</li> <li>▪ This is included in the Scientific Diver Course offered on main campus and at Friday Harbor Labs. Approved on the job training hours can be counted towards the 100 hour requirement.</li> <li>▪ Complete and pass the UW written Diving Safety Exam.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Divers who complete the Friday Harbor Labs Scientific Diver Training Course will meet the above requirements to become a UW scientific diver.</i></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 the required 100 hours of training and logged at least 12 dives with a cumulative bottom time of 6 hours. You are then authorized to dive to 30 feet. Approval for diving at 60 and 100 feet requires additional dives and authorization by DSO.

<p><b>Requirements to maintain Scientific Diver Certification at the UW are outlined below.</b></p>
<p>1. Complete and log a minimum of 12 dives per year.</p>
<p>2. Submit a <a href="#">Dive Plan</a> to the DSO for review and approval for all UW dives prior to diving.</p>
<p>3. For any dive past 100 feet deep, submit a <a href="#">Dive Plan</a> to the DSO for approval prior to diving.</p>
<p>4. Submit proof of equipment maintenance to the DSO annually. All dive gear must be tested annually by a certified technician. Gear to be tested includes (but is not limited to) the regulator and buoyancy compensating device.</p>
<p>5. Meet additional requirements for approval for nitrox, mixed gas, and blue water diving are outlined in the <a href="#">Diving Safety Manual</a>.</p>

For questions about becoming a certified scientific diver or the Diving Safety Program, contact the EH&S Diving Safety Officer at [divesafe@uw.edu](mailto:divesafe@uw.edu).