

PADI Divemaster Course Requirements

The PADI Divemaster course has room for flexibility it may be adapted to the local environment and even to the individual student. There are a standardized set of requirements that must be met, regardless of who/where/when you do it. These are outlined below.

Complete knowledge development segments including Knowledge Reviews in the PADI Divemaster Manual or through Divemaster Online, and pass the Divemaster Final Exam.

- There are 8 Chapters and Knowledge Reviews.
- The Divemaster Exam is split into 2 parts, each 60 questions

Create an Emergency Assistance Plan for designated dive site and complete water-skills exercises.

400 Yard Swim meters nonstop, without swimming aids and using any stroke or combination of strokes.

400-meter swim time	Points
under 6 min 30 sec	5
6 min 30 sec to 8 min 40 sec	4
8 min 40 sec to 11 min	3
11 min to 13 min	2
more than 13 min	1

800 Yard Snorkel swim metres face down, using mask, snorkel and fins, nonstop, without flotation aids and without using arms to swim.

800-meter swim time	Points
under 14 min	5
14 min to 16 min 30 sec	4
16 min 30 sec to 18 min 30 sec	3
18 min 30 sec to 21 min	2
more than 21 min	1

15 Minute tread water, drown proof, bob or float using no aids and wearing only a swimsuit for 15 minutes, with hands (not arms) out of the water during the last two minutes.

Criteria	Points
Performed satisfactorily	5
Stayed afloat, but hands not out of water entire two minutes	3
Used side/bottom for momentary support no more than twice	1

100 Yard Tired diver tow (or push) a diver for 100 metres/yards non-stop, at the surface, without assistance - both divers equipped in full scuba equipment.

100-meter tow time	Points
under 2 min 10 sec	5
2 min 10 sec to 3 min 15 sec	4
3 min 15 sec to 4 min 20 sec	3
4 min 20 sec to 5 min 30 sec	2
more than 5 min 30 sec	1

Equipment exchange underwater

While under water while sharing a single air source between two divers remove and replace and swap each other's dive equipment except wetsuits.

Complete a diver rescue assessment. Respond to an unresponsive, nonbreathing diver, include these steps:

- Enter the water, locate and surface a submerged diver who is about 25 metres/yards away
- Turn the diver face up and establish buoyancy
- Remove the diver's mask and regulator, open the airway and check for breathing
- Call for help
- Give two initial rescue breaths, and continue with an effective rescue breath every five seconds with no or very few interruptions
- Tow the diver to safety while protecting the airway, continuing rescue breathing
- Remove both sets of equipment (Equipment handlers allowed)
- Exit the water with the diver.

Complete the dive skills workshop and assessment. Demonstrate all scuba and skin diving skills, scoring at least a 3 on each skill, and scoring at least 82 points total, with at least one underwater skill to a 5.

- 1. Equipment assembly, adjustment, preparation, donning and disassembly
- 2. Pre-dive safety check (BWRAF)
- 3. Deep-water entry
- 4. Buoyancy check at surface
- 5. Snorkel-regulator/regulator-snorkel exchange
- 6. Five-point descent
- 7. Regulator recovery and clearing
- 8. Mask removal, replacement and clearing
- 9. Air depletion exercise and alternate air source use (stationary)
- 10. Alternate air source-assisted ascent
- 11. Free-flowing regulator breathing
- 12. Neutral buoyancy — using both oral and low pressure inflation
- 13. Five-point ascent
- 14. Controlled Emergency Swimming Ascent
- 15. Hover motionless for 30 seconds
- 16. Underwater swim without a mask
- 17. Remove and replace weight system underwater
- 18. Remove and replace scuba unit underwater
- 19. Remove and replace scuba unit on the surface
- 20. Remove and replace weight system on the surface
- 21. Vertical, head first skin dive
- 22. Swim at least 15 metres/50 feet underwater on a single breath while skin diving.
- 23. Snorkel clear using the blast method after ascending from a skin dive.
- 24. Snorkel clear using the displacement method after ascending from a skin dive.

Complete practical application skills.

Skill 1 — Dive Site Set Up and Management

Have Divemaster candidates in buddy teams or individually set up a dive site and manage pre-dive preparation, including:

- Choosing a location appropriate for divers to assemble equipment.
- Preparing emergency equipment, such as a first aid kit and oxygen unit.
- Greeting divers as they arrive at the site/boat and providing direction. For example – where to place equipment, location of nearest facilities, etc.
- Organizing a dive roster and reviewing check in and check out procedures with divers.
- Preparing and setting a float/dive flag if diving from shore, or ensuring the descent line and dive flag are ready, as appropriate, when diving from a boat.
- Choosing an appropriate vantage point from which to monitor the dive.
- Being accessible to answer diver questions and prepared to assist divers both before and after the dive.

Skill 2 — Mapping Project

Have Divemaster candidates in buddy teams survey an open water dive site and create a detailed map of the site showing (as applicable to the site) underwater relief, important points of interest, any relevant environmental notes, recommended entry/exit areas, local facilities, and potential hazards.

Skill 3 — Dive Briefing

Have each Divemaster candidate conduct a dive briefing for a familiar dive site covering all 10 points as listed below and on the Divemaster Slates. Encourage candidates to use their Mapping Project dive site map, if possible.

- 1. Dive site name
- 2. Site description
- 3. Your role and how divers can recognize you underwater, if appropriate.
- 4. Entry and exit techniques
- 5. Dive procedures
- 6. Emergency procedures
- 7. Signal review specific to the dive
- 8. Roster and buddy check
- 9. Environmental orientation
- 10. Pre-dive safety check

Skill 4 — Search and Recovery Scenario

Set up various search and recovery scenarios that allow divemaster candidates to complete the following:

- Demonstrate a methodical search of an area to find a small submerged object.
- Demonstrate a methodical search of an area to find submerged object not more than 10 kilograms/25 pounds negatively buoyant.
- Tie the following knots correctly underwater: the bowline, two half-hitches and a sheet bend.
- Demonstrate how to safely rig and bring to the surface an object not more than 10 kilograms/25 pounds negatively buoyant using an appropriate lifting device.

Skill 5 — Deep Dive Scenario

Conduct a deep dive in which each divemaster candidate completes the following:

- With a buddy before the dive, prepare emergency breathing equipment, and position it at the safety stop depth.
- Descend using a reference line, wall or sloping bottom as a visual guide only, while staying with a buddy and controlling the descent rate.
- Navigate with a compass at least 20 kick cycles away from and back to the reference line or designated spot.
- Use a depth gauge and timing device, or a dive computer to monitor an ascent rate no faster than 18 metres/60 feet per minute while using a reference line, wall or sloping bottom as a visual guide only.
- Perform a 3-minute safety stop at 5 metres/15 feet before surfacing without holding on to a reference line for positioning.

Complete divemaster-conducted programs workshops.

Workshop 1: ReActivate Program

- Access ReActivate program standards in the PADI Instructor Manual.
- State ReActivate knowledge assessment options.
- Demonstrate the prescriptive ReActivate method for determining skills to practice.
- Recognize and correct problems during skill practice.

Workshop 2: Skin Diver Course and Snorkeling Supervision (conduct in either confined water or open water)

- Give the Skin Diver course briefing or a snorkeling tour briefing.
- Conduct a Skin Diver course confined water or open water dive; or lead a snorkel tour, demonstrating control and supervision.
- Recognize and correct problems during the skin dive or snorkel tour.

Workshop 3: Discover Scuba Diving Program in Confined Water

- Access Discover Scuba Diving program standards in the PADI Instructor Manual, and explain a divemaster's role as an assistant during a confined water experience.
- Locate the Discover Scuba Diving Leader Internship Requirements in the PADI Instructor Manual, and explain how a divemaster qualifies as a Discover Scuba Diving Leader.
- Demonstrate proper positioning relative to the participants as directed by the instructor.
- Recognize and correct problems during the experience.

Workshop 4: Discover Scuba Diving Program – Additional Open Water Dive

- State the ratio and supervision requirements for an additional dive (subsequent to an initial dive with an instructor) for Discover Scuba Diving participants conducted by a PADI Divemaster.
- Give a dive briefing appropriate for Discover Scuba Diving participants for an additional open water dive.
- Lead the dive, demonstrating proper control and required supervision.
- Recognize and correct problems during the dive.

Workshop 5: Discover Local Diving in Open Water

- Access Discover Local Diving program standards in the PADI Instructor Manual.
- Assess dive site conditions, and plan the dive.

- Give a Discover Local Diving briefing.
- Lead a dive, demonstrating control and supervision.
- Recognize and correct problems during the dive.
- Demonstrate how to deploy a surface marker.

Complete practical assessments.

Practical Assessment 1 — Open Water Diver Students in Confined Water

- 1. Organize pre-dive equipment setup by student divers.
- 2. Coordinate student diver flow during training.
- 3. Supervise student divers not receiving the immediate attention of the instructor during training.
- 4. Help a student diver overcome a learning difficulty.
- 5. Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.
- 6. Demonstrate a skill for student divers.

Practical Assessment 2 — Open Water Diver Students in Open Water

- 1. Assess an open water training site; report to the instructor recommendations as to site suitability for training entry-level divers.
- 2. Organize pre-dive equipment setup by student divers.
- 3. Assist in the preparation of the site.
- 4. Coordinate student diver flow during training.
- 5. Supervise student divers not receiving the immediate attention of the instructor during training.
- 6. Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.
- 7. Lead student divers on an underwater tour (ratio 2:1).

Practical Assessment 3 — Continuing Education Student Divers in Open Water

- 1. Coordinate student diver flow during training.
- 2. Escort continuing education student divers (under the indirect supervision of the instructor) during training; report performance and learning difficulties to instructor.
- 3. Help a continuing education student diver overcome a learning difficulty.
- 4. Respond to, or prevent, student diver problems as they occur.

Practical Assessment 4 — Certified Divers in Open Water

- 1. Conduct environmental and diver assessments, taking appropriate supervisory steps based on the assessments.
- 2. Give a pre-dive briefing appropriate to the dive site.
- 3. Account for buddy teams entering and leaving the water.
- 4. Respond to, or prevent diver problems appropriately.

Meet the professionalism criteria.

Verify that divemaster candidates score at least a 3 in each category below by the end of Practical Application.

- 1. Level of active, positive participation in the training sessions.
- 2. Ability to serve as a mentor to student divers.
- 3. Willingness to follow directions.
- 4. Positive attitude and demeanor toward student divers, certified divers and staff.
- 5. Positive attitude and practice towards caring for the environment.
- 6. General understanding of a divemaster's role.
- 7. Appearance.