



Assistant Instructor Course

Overview

The NAUI Assistant Instructor rating is a NAUI leadership-level certification. The program is designed to introduce students to diving instruction basics. It also tests individuals in fundamental water skills needed to be capable assistants. Certification authorizes individuals to assist active-status NAUI Instructors in the conduct of dive training. NAUI Assistant Instructor certification is a highly recommended step in the progression to NAUI Instructor.

Qualifications of Graduates

A current NAUI Assistant Instructor is qualified to assist active-status NAUI Instructors in teaching skin and scuba diving during sanctioned diving courses provided the activities and locale are similar to those of the training. Additional training or experience is to be obtained by the Assistant Instructor who desires to assist in highly specialized training activities, such as deep, wreck penetration, cavern or ice dives.

A NAUI Assistant Instructor and can be counted toward student-instructor ratios.

After assisting an active-status NAUI Instructor with at least one complete, NAUI Scuba Diver course a current NAUI Assistant Instructor is qualified, if all other prerequisites are met, to enter a NAUI Instructor Training Course (ITC). (Attending a NAUI Instructor Preparatory (PREP) Program and certification as a NAUI Divemaster are recommended prior to attending an ITC.)

Prerequisites For Entering The Course

- Minimum age of 18
- Certification as NAUI Master Scuba Diver and NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver or their equivalent. Divers with evidence of equivalent training and experience may be enrolled provided they pass the NAUI Master Scuba Diver and NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver written examinations with minimum scores of at least 75% on each.
- Documentation of diving experience with a minimum of 20 logged open water dives. Dives shall be varied in environment, depth and activities.

- Current certification or verified competency in CPR and First Aid is required for registration. Certification training shall include (at minimum) one person adult CPR and infant/child CPR.
- Verification of good physical condition as documented by a medical examination and unconditional approval for diving by a licensed physician within the preceding 12 months.

Course Duration

- Classroom hours – 13 are estimated
- Water hours – 7 required
- Open water dives – 1 minimum

Equipment Requirements

- Standard SCUBA equipment (including snorkel, alternate air source/octopus, timing device)
- Instructor level additional equipment – dive knife/cutting tool, emergency signalling device, compass

Skill Requirements (not a complete list)

- Swimming skills (confined water) – using no equipment, demonstrate the ability to:
 - Swim underwater 25yds on one breath; no dive or push-off
 - Swim 450yds non-stop, any stroke, within 10 minutes and then swim an additional 25yds using any resting stroke
 - Transport another person of similar size 50yds
 - Demonstrate survival swimming for 20 minutes (treading water, floating etc.)
- Skin diving skills (confined and open water) – using at least a wetsuit jacket, properly adjusted weight belt, mask, snorkel and fins:
 - Snorkel swim 900yds, non-stop, within 18 minutes
 - Perform a skin ditch and recovery
- Scuba skills (confined water) – wearing scuba unit and BC in addition to minimum skin diving gear:
 - Perform scuba lifesaving transport
 - Buddy breathe with another diver while swimming horizontally under water for 4 minutes. Each buddy (in turn) is to be without a mask and the donor of air for two minutes during the swim. The divers are not to surface during the exercise.
 - Perform a scuba ditch and recovery
 - Perform a scuba bailout
- Scuba skills (open water) – in open water gear suitable for the area, comfortably demonstrate the ability to perform the following:
 - Pre-dive gear check for self and buddy
 - Removal and replacement of weight belt at surface

- Use of BC, weights and breathing to maintain proper buoyancy
- Perform a relaxed, controlled emergency swimming ascent from a minimum of 15ft
- Assisting skills (open water) - in open water gear suitable for the area, comfortably demonstrate the ability to perform the following:
 - Pre-dive equipment checks for divers simulating basic students
 - Place and recover float, flag and ascent line in the dive area for use in qualification dive
 - Escort a diver simulating a basic student from the beach or boat to the dive area, performing a buoyancy check en route
 - Escort a diver simulating a basic student with difficulties from the dive area to the beach or boat and exiting with proper standard of care
 - Escort 2 divers simulating basic students on an underwater tour while demonstration proper positioning, control and management
 - Assists for a diver in open water simulating each of: panic, cramps and breathing difficulties
 - A complete open water rescue of a submerged scuba diver simulating a non-breathing, unconscious accident victim

Academic Topics (not a complete list)

- NAUI orientation
- Review of CPR
- Diving rescue
- Emergency procedures and systems access
- Common student danger signals and early problem recognition; the significance of such warning signs as rapid breathing, jerky movements, wide open eyes etc.
- Basics of teaching – learning theory and oral communication
- Additionally, as a learning experience, the candidate is to present at least 1 assigned teaching presentation suitable for entry level diving students. The presentation is to be formally reviewed, but not graded for record. The length will vary with the number of candidates involved. The presentation may be classroom/lecture, confined water teaching, open water teaching or diving activities briefing.
- Legal aspects of instruction
- Open water skills application for the assistant instructor detailing:
 - Pre-dive equipment checks
 - Buoyancy checks, recognizing overweighting
 - Instructor/assistant coordination
 - In water student control, escorting and assistance.