

# INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE STANDARDS

## Overview

PADI Instructor Development Courses (IDCs) focus on preparing candidates to function as PADI Assistant Instructors and/or Open Water Scuba Instructors. The PADI IDC provides individuals who already possess instructor-level dive theory knowledge, role-model watermanship and rescue skills, and leadership abilities with additional training that allows them to implement the PADI System in confined water, classroom and open water environments. The IDC also helps instructor candidates gain a complete understanding of PADI's educational goals and philosophies.

The PADI IDC begins with independent learning and encompasses both the Assistant Instructor (AI) course and the Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI) program.

The IDC offers potential instructor candidates several training options and flexibility for reaching their professional goals. Options include:

- PADI Divemasters may choose to attend just the AI course.
- PADI Divemasters may attend all components that make up the IDC (7-day minimum) and, upon successful completion, go on to a PADI Instructor Examination (as long as all other IE prerequisites have been met).
- PADI Assistant Instructors may attend the OWSI program and, upon successful completion, go on to an IE (as long as all other IE prerequisites have been met).
- Scuba instructors affiliated with other certification organizations may attend an OWSI program and, upon successful completion, go on to an IE.
- Scuba instructors or dive supervisors affiliated with other certification organizations may choose to attend an entire IDC and, upon successful completion, go on to an IE.

These options allow candidates to plan appropriate breaks in training to further hone their knowledge, skills and leadership abilities or they can attend a continuous program that results in PADI Instructor certification.

## Candidate Preparation

Ultimate success during instructor development programs depends greatly on the amount of preparation staff and candidates put forth. For candidates, independent learning must begin well in advance of the IDC and is critical to their personal achievement. This pre-study allows candidates to start the course already understanding basic standards, which means that class time may be dedicated to learning how to apply standards, apply prescriptive teaching techniques and how to market courses effectively.

For the staff, preparation includes staying up-to-date with PADI program revisions and standards changes and making note of new or revised information in the IDC curriculum. It also means adapting the curriculum to the local area, adding realistic examples and covering local protocols. An important consideration when conducting instructor training is logistics. Assuring that logistical matters are handled and having alternative plans in place will help to alleviate stress and allow training to progress smoothly.

## Prerequisites

### Independent Learning Prerequisite

**Prior to the start of an Instructor Development Course, Assistant Instructor course or OWSI program, an individual must complete all (16) IDC Knowledge Reviews.** Completing Knowledge Reviews may be accomplished by self-study using the PADI Instructor Manual, Business of Diving, Law and the Diving Professional, The Best of the Undersea Journal and referring to recent Undersea Journal articles in the Instructor Candidate Workbook.

Pre-study may also occur through staff led pre-course sessions. IDC Staff Instructors or Course Directors may guide instructor candidates through reading assignments and help them with understanding PADI standards, educational philosophy, training suggestions and other background information. It's recommended a minimum of two days be set aside for this pre-study option.

## IDC and AI Course Prerequisites

To enroll in an IDC or Assistant Instructor course, an individual must:

1. **Be certified as a PADI Divemaster or hold a leadership level certification with another recreational diver training organization.** An individual with leadership level certification with another diver training organization can be:
  - a. an instructor member in good standing with one of the following organizations: BSAC (Club Instructor or higher), CMAS (one star Instructor or three star diver), FAUI, IDEA, Los Angeles County, MDEA, NAUI, PDIC, SSI, SAA (Instructor Grade 2 or higher) or YMCA (others may qualify – contact PADI for verification).
  - b. Or, a diver with proof of certification in diver supervision and management including proof of rescue diving certification.
2. **Be at least 18 years old.**
3. **Be fit for diving and submit a Medical Statement for a diving medical examination conducted within the past 12 months. A licensed physician must sign the form and state that the candidate is fit for diving. The physician signing the form may not be the applicant.**
4. **Have been a certified diver for at least six months and have completed and logged at least 60 open water scuba dives (as documented in the individual's log book) and have documentation of experience in deep, night and navigation diving.**

*Note: To attend an IE, the instructor candidate must have at least 100 logged dives.*
5. **Submit proof of CPR and first aid training within the last 24 months.**
6. **Submit documentation of any qualifying certification for entrylevel, advanced, rescue and leadership-level issued by another recreational diver training organization. (PADI Members who have these records on file at PADI do not need to resubmit.)**
7. **If not a PADI Divemaster, successfully complete the PADI Divemaster course diver rescue skills assessment.**

## OWSI Program Prerequisites

To enroll in an OWSI program, an individual must:

1. **Be certified as a PADI Assistant Instructor or as a current instructor member in good standing with another recreational diver training organization for at least 6 months** including BSAC (Club Instructor or higher), CMAS (two star Instructor), FAUI, IDEA, Los Angeles County, MDEA, NAUI, PDIC, SSI, SAA (Instructor Grade 2 or higher) or YMCA (others may qualify – contact PADI for verification).
2. **Be at least 18 years old.**
3. **Be fit for diving and submit a Medical Statement for a diving medical examination conducted within the past 12 months. A licensed physician must sign the form and state that the candidate is fit for diving. The physician signing the form may not be the applicant.**
4. **Have been a certified diver for at least six months and have completed and logged at least 60 open water scuba dives (as documented in the individual's log book) and have documentation of experience in deep, night and navigation diving.**

*Note: To attend an IE, the instructor candidate must have at least 100 logged dives.*
5. **Submit proof of CPR and first aid training within the last 24 months.**
6. **Submit documentation of any qualifying certification for entrylevel, advanced, rescue and leadership-level issued by another recreational diver training organization. (PADI Members who have these records on file at PADI do not need to resubmit).**

## **Standards and Structure**

### **Staff Qualifications**

Only PADI Course Directors who are renewed and in Teaching status for the current year can conduct IDCs and OWSI programs.

Renewed PADI Course Directors and IDC Staff Instructors who are in Teaching status can conduct AI courses. (IDC Staff Instructors must have attended an update or upgrade orienting them to the January 2002 implemented curriculum.)

Renewed PADI IDC Staff Instructors and Course Directors who are in Teaching status for the current year can staff IDCs, AI courses and OWSI programs.

### **Staff Supervision**

A PADI Course Director must be present and in control of all IDC or OWSI program activities. A PADI IDC Staff Instructor or Course Director must be present and in control of all AI course activities.

There is no minimum or maximum number of instructor candidates who may participate in an IDC, AI course or OWSI program. However, during knowledge development, confined water and open water teaching presentations, the instructor candidate-to-Course Director/ IDC Staff Instructor ratio is 8:1. An additional eight candidates can be added per renewed and updated PADI IDC Staff Instructor or Course Director.

All IDC curriculum components may be presented by IDC Staff Instructors under the Course Director's direct supervision. The only exception is that the Course Director must present the "Course Orientation" as the first presentation for an OWSI program when there are instructors who are crossing over from another certification organization.

All staff members must be committed to providing role model performance for instructor candidates regarding actions, attitude and behavior.

### **Instructor Candidate Materials**

The PADI Dive Center, Resort, Course Director and/or IDC Staff Instructor conducting a course must ensure that instructor candidates have, in their possession, a personal set of materials for study and use during the course and for reference afterward; unless the materials are not available in a language understood by the candidate.

Instructor candidates must have a current version of these required materials:

- PADI Instructor Manual
- Instructor Candidate Workbook
- Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty Instructor Outline
- Project AWARE Specialty Program Instructor Outline
- AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Instructor Outline
- PADI Open Water Diver Manual
- Recreational Dive Planner, The Wheel, table and eRDP, and Instructions for Use booklets
- Open Water Diver Quizzes and Exam booklet
- Adventures in Diving Manual
- PADI Rescue Diver Manual
- Rescue Diver Final Exams booklet
- PADI Divemaster Manual
- Divemaster Final Exams booklet
- Aquatic Cue Cards – for Open Water Dive, Adventures in Diving, Rescue Diver, Divemaster and Discover Scuba Diving
- Confined Water Lesson Preparation slate
- Open Water Training Dive Lesson Planning slate
- The Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving
- Diving Knowledge Workbook

## **Recommended materials include:**

- All PADI professional videos
- All PADI diver videos
- PADI Specialty Diver manuals
- Nav-Finder
- Rescue Diver Course Prescriptive and standard Lesson Guides
- Divemaster Course Lesson Guides
- Discover Scuba Diving Flip Chart
- Scuba Tune-up guidebook
- Skill Evaluation Slate
- Open Water Diver Course Prescriptive and standard Lesson Guides
- PADI Career Advancement Series materials
- The Law and the Diving Professional
- The Best of The Undersea Journal
- The Business of Diving
- Children and Scuba Diving: A Resource Guide for Instructors and Parents
- A.W.A.R.E. – Our World, Our Water manual
- Ten Ways a Diver Can Help to Protect the Aquatic Realm brochure
- Discover the Underwater World video and The Snorkeler's Field Guide
- PADI Adventure Log – Pro Modules including Supervising and Teaching

## **Equipment Requirements**

**During open water scuba training, instructor candidates must equip themselves with: fins, mask, snorkel, cylinder, buoyancy control device with low pressure inflator, regulator, alternate air source, submersible pressure gauge, weight system (if necessary), appropriate exposure protection, timing device, depth gauge, compass, knife/ diver's tool, slate, dive table and two surface signaling devices – one audible (whistle, air horn, etc.) and one visual (inflatable surface tube, flare, signal mirror, etc.)**

## **Performance Requirements**

### **IDC Performance Requirements**

**To successfully complete a PADI IDC, an individual must meet the following performance requirements:**

- 1. Attend and participate in all 20 curriculum presentations.**
- 2. Present at least four evaluated knowledge development teaching presentations and score a 3.5 or higher on at least one presentation.**
- 3. Present at least four evaluated confined water teaching presentations and score a 3.4 or higher on at least one presentation.**
- 4. Present at least two integrated (two skills each, four total) evaluated open water teaching presentations and score a 3.4 or higher on each skill in at least one of the integrated presentations.**
- 5. Demonstrate competence at performing all 20 dive skills listed on the Skill Evaluation. Candidates must earn 68 total points, with no individual score below 3.**
- 6. Perform a facedown, nonstop swim for 800 metres/yards using a mask, snorkel and fins.**
- 7. Score 75 percent or higher on all five sections of the Instructor Preassessment Exam.**
- 8. Score 75 percent or higher on the Assistant Instructor Standards Exam and have any missed questions reviewed until mastery is achieved. Scores less than 75 percent require a retest.**

***Note: Completion of all independent learning Knowledge Reviews is a prerequisite.***

## **AI Course Performance Requirements**

To be certified as a PADI Assistant Instructor, an individual must meet the following performance requirements:

1. Attend the seven IDC Curriculum Components including:
  - a. Course Orientation
  - b. Learning, Instruction and the PADI System
  - c. PADI Discover Scuba Diving and Snorkeling Programs
  - d. Developing Knowledge Development Presentations
  - e. Teaching Project AWARE and Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialties
  - f. Teaching in Confined Water
  - g. Conducting Open Water Training Presentations
2. Present at least two evaluated knowledge development teaching presentations and score a 3.5 or higher on at least one presentation.
3. Present at least two evaluated confined water teaching presentations and score a 3.4 or higher on at least one presentation.
4. Present at least one integrated (two skills) evaluated open water teaching presentation and score a 3.5 or higher on each skill.
5. Demonstrate competence at performing all 20 dive skills listed on the Skill Evaluation. Candidates must earn 68 total points, with no individual score below 3.
6. Score 75 percent or higher on the Assistant Instructor Standards Exam and have any missed questions reviewed until mastery is achieved. Scores less than 75 percent require a retest.
7. Successfully complete the PADI Divemaster course diver rescue skills assessment in open water.  
Note: Completion of all independent learning Knowledge Reviews is a prerequisite.

## **OWSI Program Performance Requirements**

To successfully complete a PADI OWSI program, an individual must meet the following performance requirements:

1. Attend and participate in the following 14 curriculum presentations (a-n). Instructors from recreational diver training organizations other than PADI must also complete How to Teach the RDP.
  - a. Course Orientation
  - b. Dive Industry Overview
  - c. General Standards and Procedures
  - d. The Role of Media and Prescriptive Teaching
  - e. Legal Responsibility and Risk Management
  - f. PADI Scuba Diver and Open Water Diver Course
  - g. Adaptive Teaching
  - h. The PADI Continuing Education Philosophy
  - i. Business Principles for the Dive Instructor
  - j. Adventures in Diving Program
  - k. Specialty Diver Courses and Master Scuba Diver Program
  - l. Rescue Diver Course
  - m. Divemaster Course
  - n. Diver Retention Programs
  - o. How to Teach the RDP (Instructors from recreational diver training organizations other than PADI must complete.)
2. Present at least two evaluated knowledge development teaching presentations and score a 3.5 or higher on at least one presentation.

3. Present at least two evaluated confined water teaching presentations and score a 3.4 or higher on at least one presentation.
4. Present at least one integrated (two skills) evaluated open water teaching presentations and score a 3.4 or higher on each skill.
5. Demonstrate competence at performing all 20 dive skills listed on the Skill Evaluation. Candidates must earn 68 total points, with no individual score below 3.
6. Perform a facedown, nonstop swim for 800 metres/yards using a mask, snorkel and fins.
7. Score 75 percent or higher on all five sections of the Instructor Preassessment Exam.

*Note: Completion of all independent learning Knowledge Reviews is a prerequisite.*

## **Certification and Registration Procedures**

### **AI Certification Procedures**

PADI Assistant Instructor candidates must successfully complete all course performance requirements before applying for certification.

The PADI Course Director or IDC Staff Instructor who evaluates the candidate's final teaching presentation (verifying that it meets course requirements) and who administers and/or reviews the candidate's Assistant Instructor Standards Examination is the certifying instructor. The certifying instructor must ensure that the candidate has met all other certification performance requirements.

To apply for certification, submit a completed Assistant Instructor application, along with an Instructor Candidate Information and Training Record that documents completed Assistant Instructor training segments, to the appropriate PADI Office along with the required photograph and application fee.

### **Instructor Candidate Registration Procedures**

The PADI Course Director conducting the course must verify that an instructor candidate has successfully completed an IDC or OWSI program by signing an IDC Certificate of Completion, and registering the candidate with the appropriate PADI Office.

**Within seven days of the IDC/OWSI program completion, send the instructor candidate's registration packet to the appropriate PADI Office via a traceable mail or courier service. If the IDC/OWSI program is completed within seven days of an IE, the registration packet can be presented to the Instructor Examiner at the IE.**

#### **Registration packets must include:**

1. **IDC Course Report Form.** This form should list all instructor candidates, IDC Staff Instructor candidates, IDC Staff Instructors and Course Directors who participated in the course.
2. **Instructor candidate registration forms for each candidate, including:**
  - a. **Instructor Candidate Application**
  - b. **Instructor Candidate Information and Training Record**
  - c. **One photograph (some PADI Offices may require more than one)**
  - d. **A Medical Statement for a diving medical examination conducted within the past 12 months. A licensed physician must sign the form and state that the candidate is fit for diving. The physician signing the form is not to be the applicant.**
  - e. **Documentation of CPR and first aid training within the last 24 months.**
  - f. **Documentation of any qualifying certifications issued by another recreational diver training organization for entrylevel, advanced and rescue or documentation of a current instructor certification card issued by another recreational diver training organization. (PADI Members who have these records on file at PADI do not need to resubmit.)**
3. **IDC registration fee for each instructor candidate. (See current PADI Price List.)**