

INSTRUCTOR EXAMINATION (IE)

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of the PADI Instructor Examination is to evaluate if an instructor candidate's knowledge and skills are sufficient to earn a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor certification. The IE is an evaluative program that tests the instructor candidate's teaching ability, dive theory knowledge, waterskill level, understanding of the PADI System and attitude and professionalism. The goal is to objectively evaluate the instructor candidate's ability to meet the certification criteria.

PADI IEs are standardized evaluations that are conducted by Instructor Examiners from PADI International Offices. The IE location, testing environment and evaluation sessions are selected to ensure the most conducive setting possible for assessing instructor candidate abilities. An instructor candidate who meets the IE performance requirements earns a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor certification (as long as all other prerequisite requirements are met).

Attending an IE

An instructor candidate who successfully completes the OWSI program or an entire IDC is eligible to participate in a PADI Instructor Examination (IE) as long as the candidate has documentation of at least 100 logged dives including experience in deep, night and navigation diving. An instructor candidate who does not meet the dive requirement, must fulfill this requirement before attending an IE.

After successful completion of the OWSI program or an entire IDC, a candidate has 12 months from the course completion date to attend an IE. If more than 12 months pass, the instructor candidate must complete another OWSI program or an entire IDC before being eligible to attend an IE.

A Course Director verifies that the instructor candidate has successfully completed the OWSI program or an entire IDC and has met the dive requirements by signing an Instructor Certificate of Completion. An instructor candidate needs to have both the OWSI/IDC completion and dive experience sections signed by a Course Director to enroll in an IE. The Course Director who verifies the instructor candidate's course completion need not be the same Course Director who verifies the candidate's fulfillment of the dive requirement.

Once all requirements have been met, the instructor candidate may choose to attend an IE. Successfully completing the OWSI program or an entire IDC creates no obligation to go on to become a PADI Instructor. An instructor candidate should be advised that the decision to attend an IE is the candidate's responsibility, however, the candidate should base the decision on the recommendation and guidance of the Course Director. A candidate should also understand that it is the candidate's responsibility to be fully prepared for the IE.

To enroll in a PADI Instructor Examination, an individual must:

- 1. Successfully complete an OWSI program or IDC within 12 months of the start date of the IE.**
- 2. Have documentation of at least 100 logged dives including experience in deep, night and navigation diving.**
- 3. Present an Instructor Certificate of Completion that has both the OWSI/IDC completion date and dive experience sections signed by a PADI Course Director, OR present an IE Certificate of Participation indicating previous attendance at an IE and which modules need to be repeated.**
- 4. Present an IE Enrollment form and appropriate IE fee.**
- 5. Present a Medical Statement for a diving medical examination conducted within the past 12 months indicating that the candidate is fit for diving. The physician signing the form is not to be the applicant.**

An instructor candidate who is unsuccessful at an IE must wait at least five days before attending another IE. If unsuccessful at a second IE, the instructor candidate must attend the appropriate components of another OWSI program or IDC (as prescribed by PADI) with a PADI Course Director before attending another IE.

It's recommended that instructor candidates are registered for an IE with PADI several weeks in advance. This allows for better planning of staff and logistical needs based on more accurate attendance estimates.

Staff, Location and Duration

PADI IEs are staffed by PADI-appointed Instructor Examiners. If a translator is required, PADI reserves the right to approve the individual's services and ask that a Translation Statement of Confidentiality be signed.

PADI IEs are conducted at locations preapproved by PADI, such as hotels or schools, that offer professional meeting facilities and meet other criteria specified by PADI.

Instructor candidates are responsible for their own transportation before, during and after the IE. They are also responsible for providing their own dive equipment, including tanks and weights, and for paying any fee for using an open water dive site. PADI IEs are conducted over two days. **Instructor candidates must successfully complete all areas of evaluation at their first IE to earn the PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor rating. If unsuccessful at one or two IE components, and the candidate participates in the entire IE on the initial attempt, the candidate will only need to retest in the one or two modules of failure at a subsequent IE. If the candidate is unsuccessful at a second IE, the candidate must repeat unsuccessful segments at a third IE after the appropriate required remediation. The IE must be within 12 months of the IDC completion date.**

Areas of Evaluation and Examination Policy

To successfully complete an IE, an individual must:

- 1. Score 75 percent or higher on all five sections of the dive theory exam. Only one makeup on one of the sections is allowed.**
- 2. Score 75 percent or higher on the Systems, Standards and Procedures exam. No makeups are allowed.**
- 3. Score a 3.5 or higher on an assigned knowledge development teaching presentation. One makeup presentation is allowed – passing makeup score is 3.5 or higher.**
- 4. Score a 3.4 or higher on an assigned confined water teaching presentation. One makeup presentation is allowed – passing makeup score is 3.4 or higher.**
- 5. Score an average of 3.4 or higher on two assigned open water teaching presentations. No makeups are allowed.**
- 6. Demonstrate competence in the rescue of a scuba diving victim simulating unconsciousness/non-breathing at the surface. One makeup is allowed.**
- 7. Score a 3.0 or higher on five skill demonstrations. In addition, score a total of 17 points or more on the entire skill circuit. If score is less than 17 points, a makeup of all five skills is allowed. If one skill scores less than 3.0, but the total is 17 points or more, one makeup is allowed for the one skill. Passing makeup score is 3.0 or higher for any skill and no less than 17 total points if demonstrating all five skills. Scores of 1.0 or 2.0 on two or more skills initially or not passing the makeup will disqualify candidates from certification during the IE.**
- 8. Demonstrate competence with all dive skills during confined water and open water sessions.**
- 9. Demonstrate professional behavior, attitude and actions during all phases of the IE.**

PADI reserves the right to modify these criteria as necessary.

Written Examination Policy

Provisions may be made during written examinations for instructor candidates with documented learning disabilities and for those who must take the exam in another language because the exam does not exist in their primary language.

Instructor candidates who must take the exam in other than their primary language may be granted an

extended period – two and a quarter hours, instead of one and a half hours – to complete each exam. **In this case, the Instructor Development Department at the appropriate PADI Office Training Department must be notified in advance so that appropriate logistical accommodations may be made.**

In the case of an instructor candidate with a learning disability, the candidate must submit documentation from a credentialed health care practitioner or professional counselor stating that the instructor candidate has been diagnosed with a learning disability to the PADI Examiner conducting the IE. Examples of health care practitioners include, but are not limited to, medical doctors or psychologists. Requests are evaluated on an individual basis with the goal of creating a positive testing environment.

Certification

After successfully completing an IE, instructor candidates are eligible to become PADI Open Water Scuba Instructors. **Instructor candidates are certified as PADI Open Water Scuba Instructors only when candidate registration packets and IE forms are processed by PADI. Before teaching any PADI courses or achieving Teaching status, newly certified instructors must meet insurance requirements (where applicable) and receive certification verification from PADI.** Newly certified instructors are automatically placed in renewed status for the year in which they successfully complete an IE.

Auditing Policies

PADI Course Directors are welcome to observe the examination process at a PADI IE. However, to provide instructor candidates with the most objective evaluation possible, CDs must adhere to the following policies:

1. PADI Course Directors may observe all segments of the IE, however IDC Staff Instructors are only allowed to audit the orientation and closing sessions. (At the Instructor Examiner's discretion, exceptions may be made for IDC Staff Instructors who provide logistical support or translation services.)
2. If planning to audit any part of an IE, other than the orientation and closing, notify the appropriate PADI Office Training Department, in advance. The number of auditors may be restricted due to logistics and to minimize candidate stress.
3. Coaching or assisting instructor candidates with any IE evaluation segment is not allowed and, if necessary, will be addressed by the Instructor Examiner. If instructor candidates have questions or need assistance, they should be directed to the Instructor Examiner.
4. The Instructor Examiner's focus is directed toward the instructor candidates. Anyone who intentionally distracts the Instructor Examiner or instructor candidates, or adversely affects the evaluation process will be asked to leave the IE.
5. Evaluation practice is allowed at the discretion of the Instructor Examiner based on logistics. Check with the Instructor Examiner before the start of an evaluation session.