

# ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

ACUC - ADVANCED  
INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS  
V200601

## Points of special consideration

- *This is a professional level certification*
- *It can be given by any ACUC ITE once requisites are met*



## Foreword

The ACUC Advanced Instructor is a certification that can be obtained by ACUC Open Water Instructors that meet a series of prerequisites. The main features of this certification are that in addition to doing the same as an ACUC Open Water Instructor, the candidate who obtains this level can also teach but cannot evaluate or certify the ACUC Entry Level Instructor course.

This is an International ACUC standard and therefore it is always subject to different national or local legislations. In cases where the existing legislation differs from this standard, the ACUC Delegation of the country or area, if it exists, must request in writing to the ACUC central office, a "Deviation" from this standard to satisfy the legislation of the area, supporting its demand with the proper documentation. Deviations, if requested, to be considered valid, should appear at the end of each specific standard document.

In cases where local or national legislations are more restrictive than the ACUC standard, then local legislation will prevail, but if the ACUC standard is more restrictive, then the ACUC standard will prevail, because logically fulfilling the more restrictive ACUC standard, the local legislation will also be fulfilled.

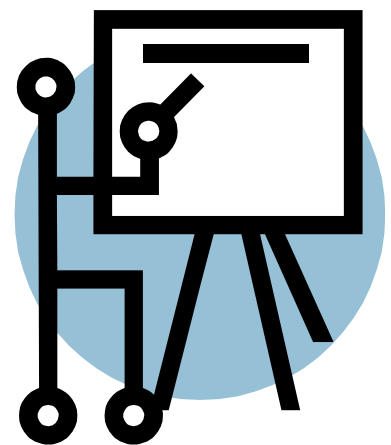
## 1. Reach

This standard specifies the minimum competencies that must be achieved by an ACUC Advanced Instructor.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this standard and any other standard referenced as acuc-st-xxx, the following definitions apply. Please note that not all terms shown next might appear in this specific standard.

- 2.1 ACUC:** Entity providing recreational scuba diving training systems and certification.
- 2.2 Basic equipment:** equipment consisting of the following items:
  - Mask
  - Fins
  - Snorkel.
- 2.3 Breathing gas:** appropriate mixture of oxygen and nitrogen.
- 2.4 Certification:** confirmation that a student has completed all requirements of a course according to this standard, as issued by ACUC.



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- 2.5 Cold water:** water less than 10°C from its highest average temperature or water of 10°C or less.
- 2.6 Competencies:** what a diver can do once certified.
- 2.7 Confined spaces:** condition that applies when there is no direct access to the surface, such as inside a wreck, cave, etc.
- 2.8 Confined water:** swimming pool with a depth appropriate to the activity, or body of water that offers similar conditions (maximum depth 6 meters).
- 2.9 Diving equipment:** equipment consisting of the following items:  
 Mask  
 Fins  
 Snorkel  
 Tank  
 Regulator  
 Alternative breathing gas system, which could range from a simple octopus system to a duplicate breathing system with a separate breathing gas supply  
 Tank-support-system and buoyancy control device including (if appropriate) a quick release weight system,  
 Submersible pressure gauge (breathing gas pressure monitor)  
 Means to measure depth and time and to safely limit exposure to inert gas  
 Diving suit (if appropriate).
- Note: Specific environments may require appropriate additional equipment (e.g. an underwater navigational aid, knife/cutting device, etc.)
- 2.10 Dry specialty:** specialty course where no water training takes place, such as for example, first aid, oxygen administration, etc.
- 2.11 Knowledge levels:**  
 Basic: knows how  
 Intermediate: knows how and why  
 Advanced: knows how, why and also, knows how to teach it.
- 2.12 Non certification scuba course:** scuba course where the participants do not receive an ACUC certification at the end of the course, such as for example, scuba introduction, scuba refreshment, scuba buoyancy, etc.
- 2.13 Open water:** body of water significantly larger than a swimming pool offering conditions typical of a natural body of water encountered in the region where training takes place.
- 2.14 Prerequisites for training:** what a diver needs or conditions to be met prior to start training.
- 2.15 Reduced visibility:** condition that applies when diving at night or when visibility is less than an arm's length, for whatever the reason.
- 2.16 SCUBA:** Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.
- 2.17 Scuba instructor:** a qualified individual, sanctioned by ACUC to teach, evaluate and certify divers.
- 2.18 Theory knowledge:** knowledge imparted in a dry environment (classroom, pool deck, etc.)
- 2.19 Training open water dive:** open water training experience under direct supervision of a qualified instructor, comprising at least the following activities:  
 Briefing  
 Preparation to dive  
 Pre-dive checks  
 Entry into water  
 Descent procedures  
 Underwater activity  
 Ascent and surfacing procedures  
 Exit from water  
 Debriefing  
 Post dive procedures  
 Recording the dive.
- 2.20 Water skills:** knowledge imparted inside a wet environment (pool water, sea water, etc.)



## ACUC - ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

### 3. Competencies of a certified, recreational ACUC Advanced Instructor

An ACUC Advanced Instructor shall be trained to have sufficient competencies by knowledge, skill and experience to, in addition of what an Open Water Instructor must know, teach but not evaluate or certify the entry level instructor program. ACUC Advanced Instructors shall dive within the following parameters

- Dive and lead divers to a maximum depth of 40 meters / 130 feet
- Dive and ensure that others dive only when appropriate support is available at the surface,
- Dive and ensure that others dive under conditions that are equal or better than the conditions where they were trained.
- Assist certified divers in new environments which the Advanced Instructor is familiar with.

If accompanied by an ACUC Instructor of superior level, certified ACUC Advanced Instructors may gain progressive experience beyond these parameters (except depth) and develop competency in managing more challenging diving conditions designed to lead to higher qualifications. Where further instruction is required this can only be provided by a suitably qualified ACUC Instructor.

### 4. Prerequisites

To obtain this level according to this standard, the candidate must meet the following prerequisites:

- 4.1 Minimum age: 19 years.
- 4.2 Health requirements: candidates must pass an appropriate medical examination for recreational diving. Candidates will be advised on the importance of appropriate regular medical examinations.
- 4.3 Previous certification: ACUC Open Water Instructor or similar. Must also be an ACUC DER (Diving Emergency Responder) Instructor and an ACUC O2ER (O2 Emergency Responder) Instructor. Please note that it is in the best interest of an Advanced Instructor to be an Instructor of those Non-Restricted specialties (Night Diving, Wreck Diving, U/W Orientation, etc...) which a diver is introduced to in the Advanced Diver course.

Note: ACUC could accept any similar certification of First Aid Instructor, if they include BLS and defibrillator training, from other recognized organizations (although the ACUC exam should be done and the ACUC DER Instructor kit should be obtained), but in the case of Emergency Oxygenation Instructor, ACUC will only recognize DAN or USP certifications and the ACUC O2ER instructor kit should be obtained and the ACUC exam should be done.

### 5. Certification requirements

Candidates may be required by ACUC to complete an aptitude and knowledge test, mainly dealing with standards. In addition to having the specialties mentioned in point 4.3 above, the candidate must have certified a minimum of 20 divers with ACUC, including at least 4 Divemasters, in the last 4 years.

**As an alternative**, if you do not have 20 certified students, the Open Water Instructor candidate, to obtain the Advanced Instructor certification, can also participate as an observer in at least two ACUC Entry Level Instructor or ACUC Open Water Instructor courses offered by an ACUC IT or ITE. Once the candidate has participated as an observer in at least two instructor courses and the IT or ITE Course Director issues a favourable report, then the candidate will obtain the Advanced Instructor qualification. The candidate must also have the Instructor specialties mentioned in Section 4.3

### 6. Training Dives

No additional training dives are required for this level.



## 7. Deviations

Deviations only apply to the country or area mentioned

<b>Country or Area</b>	<b>Deviation relating to</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Deviation Approval</b>
South Korea	O2ER Instructor certification	Local legislation	Because a medical degree is required for oxygen administration, this course is not mandatory