

OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS

ACUC - OPEN WATER
INSTRUCTOR STANDARDS
V0422

Special consideration points

- *This is the second mandatory professional level of the ACUC training ladder*
- *Candidates must already be at least Divemasters*
- *A Civil Liability insurance covering the activities which the candidate will be performing is required.*



Foreword

The ACUC Open Water Instructor course can be taught by any ACUC Instructor Trainer or higher level but must be evaluated and certified by an ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator. The main characteristics of this course is that besides doing the same as an ACUC Entry Level Instructor, the candidates that successfully complete the course, can also teach, evaluate and certify, the Advanced Diver, the ACUC Rescue Diver and the Divemaster courses, and can assist in the training of the ACUC Entry Level Instructor course. They can also teach certain specialties for which they have requested and obtained from ACUC, the Instructor specialty rating. This course concentrates on teaching the candidates to teach the contents of the above mentioned courses.

This is an ACUC International standard and therefore is always subject to the different national or local legislations. In cases where legislations exist that differ from this standard, the ACUC country or area delegation if it exist, must request in writing to the ACUC main office a **“Deviation”** from this standard to satisfy the legislation of the area, supporting their request with the appropriate documentation. Deviations, if requested, to be considered valid, must appear at the end of each specific standard document.

In cases where the local or national legislations are more restrictive than the ACUC Standard, then the local legislation will prevail, but if the ACUC Standard is more restrictive, then the ACUC Standard will prevail, because by complying with the more restrictive ACUC Standard, logically the local legislation will be also complied with.

Regarding required training hours, none are specified because these could vary depending on many factors (number of candidates, diving environment, etc), therefore the training hours needed are dependant on the fulfillment of learning objectives. In the ACUC manuals and documents where hours are specified, these are only to be considered recommendations.

1. Scope

This Standard specifies safety related minimum competencies to be achieved in recreational scuba training at the ACUC Open Water Instructor level. This Standard applies only to contractual training and certification in recreational scuba diving.

2. Definitions

For definitions, please see this [page](#)

3 Competencies of a certified, recreational ACUC Open Water Instructor

An ACUC Open Water Instructor shall be trained to have sufficient competencies by knowledge, skill and experience to, in addition of what an Entry Level Instructor must know, teach, evaluate and certify, the ACUC Advanced Diver, the ACUC Rescuer Diver and the ACUC Divemaster courses and to assist in the training of the Entry Level Instructor program.

ACUC Open Water 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,



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- 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 Open Water Instructor is familiar with.

If accompanied by an ACUC instructor of superior level, certified ACUC Open Water 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 or experience is required this can only be provided by a suitably qualified ACUC instructor.

4 Prerequisites for training

In order to qualify for enrolment in a course according to this Standard the candidate shall meet the following prerequisites:

- 4.1 **Minimum age:** To start training: 18 years. (see also point 10, Assessment and Certification requirements)
- 4.2 **Health requirements:** Candidates shall be medically screened as suitable for recreational diving by means of an appropriate medical examination. Candidates shall be advised of the importance of appropriate regular medical examinations.
- 4.3 **Previous Certification:** ACUC Divemaster, Entry Level Instructor or similar, with at least 41 hours bottom time experience (see also point 10, Assessment and Certification requirements)

5 Instructor: Candidate Ratios during training

- **Theory (classroom or pool):** No limit
- **Confined Water:** 10 candidates per Instructor, with an additional 4 candidates per Divemaster, with an absolute maximum of 20 candidates.
- **Open Water:** 8 candidates per Instructor, with an additional 2 candidates per Divemaster, with an absolute maximum of 12 candidates.

6 Introductory information

The following information shall be made available to the candidates prior to, or during the first class meeting.

- Prerequisites according to 4,
- Limitations of eventual qualification,
- Scope of course,
- Course procedures,
- Costs, insurance and contractual issues according to national regulations,
- Equipment requirements,
- Certification requirements according to 10,
- Diving related legislation and legal requirements.

7 Course content relating to theory knowledge

If the candidate is an ACUC Divemaster

Candidates must already have the knowledge of a Divemaster, plus:

7.1 **Teaching Techniques:** Candidates shall have an advanced knowledge of:

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course



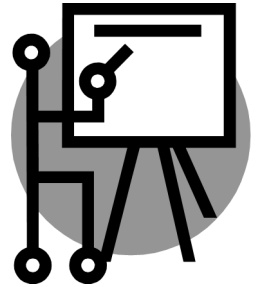
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If the candidate is an ACUC Entry Level Instructor

Candidates must already have the knowledge of an Entry Level Instructor, plus:

7.2 Teaching Techniques: Candidates shall have an advanced knowledge of:

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course



8 Course content relating to scuba skills

If the candidate is an ACUC Divemaster

8.1 Confined water scuba skills: Besides the already acquired skills of a Divemaster, candidates shall be able to perform the following skills. Each skill shall be mastered in confined water before that skill is performed in open water.

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course

8.2 Open water scuba skills: Besides the already acquired skills of a Divemaster, candidates shall be able to perform the following skills in conditions typical of the local environment.

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Scuba Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Open Water Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course

If the candidate is an ACUC Entry Level Instructor

8.3 Confined water scuba skills: Besides the already acquired skills of an Entry Level Instructor, candidates shall be able to perform the following skills. Each skill shall be mastered in confined water before that skill is performed in open water.

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course

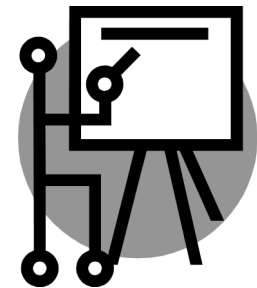
8.4 Open water scuba skills: Besides the already acquired skills of an Entry Level Instructor, candidates shall be able to perform the following skills in conditions typical of the local environment.

- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Advanced Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Rescue Diver course
- Teaching and Evaluating the ACUC Divemaster course

9 Practical training parameters

9.1 All skills shall be introduced and directly supervised by an ACUC Instructor Trainer, who shall be in the water during each session. The Instructor Trainer shall be in direct control of candidates throughout all sessions.

“Minimum age is 18 years old”



“All skills must be evaluated by, at least, one ACUC Instructor Trainer Evaluator, who must be with the candidate in each session”



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- 9.2** All skills shall be evaluated by an ACUC Instructor Evaluator, who shall be in the water during each evaluation session.
- 9.3** When open water dives are involved, before participating in open water dives a candidate shall have demonstrated sufficient theoretical knowledge and scuba skills in confined water to be able to perform the open water dives in the prevailing conditions.
- 9.4** The maximum depth during training dives shall not exceed 25 meters / 80 feet
- 9.5** All training open water dives shall be conducted during daylight hours in water that allows direct vertical access to the surface. Open water dives therefore shall not be conducted in underwater caves or below ice.
- 9.6** During open water dives the candidate shall at least be equipped with diving equipment according to 2.9 (see [Definitions](#)).
- 9.7** As per clause 5, the absolute maximum number of candidates per scuba instructor in ideal conditions for supervision and escorting under water is eight. The maximum number of candidates per qualified assistant for supervision and escorting under water is two. At no time shall a candidate in or under water be left without supervision.
- 9.8** Prior to open water dives the scuba instructor shall prepare an “emergency plan”. In the immediate vicinity of the dive site there shall be:
- a suitable first aid kit
 - an emergency oxygen unit with a capacity of delivering at least 15 l/min. for at least 20 min.
 - communication system suitable for alerting emergency services.
- 9.9** The scuba instructor shall cancel or abort the open water dive if environmental conditions or a candidate’s physical or mental condition make this necessary.
- 9.10** A maximum of 3 daily training dives will be allowed

10 Assessment and certification requirements

- 10.1 Knowledge:** The candidate shall demonstrate, by means of the written test (**) supplied by ACUC, knowledge of scuba diving theory according to 7 and knowledge of skills according to 8.
- 10.2 Teaching Techniques:** The candidate shall demonstrate, by means of at least 2 classroom presentations, knowledge of teaching techniques according to 7 and 8.
- 10.3 Scuba Skills:** The candidate shall satisfactorily demonstrate to an ACUC instructor, the scuba skills according to 8.
- 10.4 Minimum Dives:** The candidate must have at least 70 hours of bottom time before obtaining the certification
- 10.5 Minimum Age:** To Obtain the certification: 19 years.

(**) If for some reason, the candidate can not do a written test, then the Instructor can do an oral examination to the candidate based on the written test provided by ACUC and if this is the case, the Instructor will transfer the candidate’s oral answers to the written test. Whatever the case, the written test must be completed, either directly by the candidate or indirectly by the Instructor, using the candidate’s oral answers. Instructors can, if they wish, offer additional tests to the candidate, however, the ACUC provided test must be done.

11 Training Dives

No additional training dives, except those in which the candidate participates as a Divemaster, Entry Level Instructor or Open Water Instructor-in-training, are required for this level.

12 Deviations

None requested