

4. Assistant Instructor

4.1 Introduction

This course is designed to have students gain practical teaching experience with an active SDI Instructor.

4.2 Qualifications of Graduates

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates may:

1. Teach and certify students in the SDI Snorkeling course
2. Conduct the SDI Inactive Diver/Refresher course
3. Conduct the knowledge quest review in the SDI Open Water Scuba Diver course under indirect supervision by an active SDI Instructor
4. Assist an active SDI Instructor during approved diving courses, provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training
5. Supervise and conduct dives for certified divers provided the activities are similar to the graduate's prior training
6. Teach approved specialties after receiving instructor training in those specialties

4.3 Who May Teach

An active SDI Instructor (where local law permits) or an active SDI Course Director

4.4 Student to Instructor Ratio

Academic

1. Unlimited, so long as adequate facility, supplies and time are provided to ensure comprehensive and complete training of subject matter

Confined Water (swimming pool-like conditions)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor

Open Water (ocean, lake, quarry, spring, river or estuary)

1. A maximum of 8 students per instructor are allowed; it is the instructor's discretion to reduce this number as conditions dictate

4.5 Student Prerequisites

1. Minimum age 18
2. Certified SDI Divemaster or equivalent
3. Provide proof of current CPR, first aid and oxygen provider,* where local law permits
4. Provide proof of at least 60 logged dives or 50 logged dives and 25 hours underwater accumulated time
5. Possess the minimum instructional equipment, as defined in leadership course standards section two of this manual

***Note:** CPR, first aid and oxygen provider courses may be combined with the assistant instructor program by qualified instructors

4.6 Course Structure and Duration

The student must assist an active instructor with the following classes. The student must attend all classroom, confined water and open water sessions.

1. One complete SDI Open Water Scuba Diver Course
 - a. One limited academic presentation
 - b. One limited confined water presentation
 - c. One limited open water presentation
2. Four SDI Specialty Courses
3. One SDI Rescue Course

Course Structure

1. SDI allows instructors to structure courses according to the number of students participating and their skill level.

Duration

1. A minimum of 70 hours
2. No more than 30 hours may be credited from the SDI Divemaster program at the discretion of the instructor

4.7 Administrative Requirements

Administrative Tasks:

1. Collect the course fees from all the students
2. Ensure that the students have the required equipment
3. Communicate the schedule to the students
4. Have the students:
 - a. Complete the *SDI Liability Release and Express Assumption of Risk Form*
 - b. Submit the *SDI Medical Statement Form* signed by a licensed physician

Upon successful completion of the course the instructor must:

1. Issue the appropriate SDI certification by submitting the appropriate SDI Dive Leader Registration form and other required paperwork to SDI Headquarters

4.8 Training Material

Required Material

1. *SDI Assistant Instructor Manual* or eLearning
2. *SDI Assistant Instructor Guide*
3. *SDI Standards and Procedures Manual*

Optional Material

1. *SDI Assistant Instructor Resource CD*
2. *SDI Assistant Instructor PowerPoint Presentation*
3. SDI Assistant Instructor course checklist

4.9 Required Equipment

Basic open water scuba equipment for diving leaders as described in section two of this manual

4.10 Required Subject Areas

Instructors are required to cover all the following topics:

1. SDI Standards and Procedures
2. History of SDI
3. Products and Procedures
 - a. How to place an order
 - b. Yearly renewals
 - c. SDI requirements for SDI Assistant Instructor certification
 - d. SDI Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities of an SDI Assistant Instructor
4. Liability and Insurance
 - a. Risk management
 - b. Waivers and releases
 - c. Filling out an accident report

5. Course Planning
 - a. Preparation, planning and control in dive management and diving activities
 - b. Pool/confined water and open water procedures
 - c. Practical experience in assisting with the training of open water dives
 - d. Pool/confined water and open water problem solving
 - e. How to conduct a snorkeling course
 - f. How to conduct an inactive diver / refresher course
6. Emergency Procedures
 - a. First aid
 - b. Oxygen (O₂) administration
 - c. Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

4.11 Required Skill Performance and Graduation Requirements

The student must perform one presentation in each of the courses assisted under the direct supervision of an active instructor. Instructors are required to evaluate all the following skills:

1. The candidate's ability to:
 - a. Assist in all required courses
 - b. Demonstrate mature and sound judgment concerning dive planning and execution
2. 400 metre swim on the surface, non-stop, any stroke, without the use of swimming aids, in less than 10 minutes; swim goggles permitted
3. 800 metre swim with mask, snorkel, and fins non-stop without the use of arms in less than 17 minutes
4. Provide proof of 60 logged dives
5. Bring a diver, simulating unconsciousness, up from depth, not greater than 6 metres / 20 feet; at the surface swim them 100 metres in less than 4 minutes
6. Demonstrate all open water diver skills to instructor quality
7. Complete the SDI Assistant Instructor exam, or online version, with a minimum score of 80 percent and 100 percent remediation