

(Your Title Here)

DISTINCTIVE SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR OUTLINE

Introduction

(This section includes suggestions on how to use this guide, an overview of course philosophy and goals.)
NOTE: This is your outline and you should not be afraid to change the entire template if your course content warrants it. Use this template as a guide and make sure you have included everything you need to cover in the course to make it both sound in practice and fun to take.

How to Use this Guide

This guide speaks to you, the (your specialty title here) Diver Specialty Instructor. The guide contains four sections – the first contains standards specific to this course, the second contains knowledge development presentations, the third considers confined water training, and the fourth details the open water dives.

All required standards, learning objectives, activities, and performance requirements specific to the (your specialty title here) Diver course appear in **boldface** print. **The boldface assists you in easily identifying those requirements that you *must* adhere to when you conduct the course.** Items not in boldface print are recommendations for your information and consideration. General course standards applicable to all PADI courses are located in the General Standards and Procedures section of your PADI *Instructor Manual*.

Course Philosophy and Goals

This section should always include that] This specialty is an introduction to (specialty name), to familiarize divers with the skills, knowledge, planning, organization, procedures, techniques, problems, hazards and enjoyment of (type of diving here) diving. It's intended to serve as a safe and supervised introduction to (type of diving here) diving. Training should emphasize safety and fun.

The purpose of the PADI (your specialty title here) Specialty Diver Course is to (describe your course philosophy here).

The goals of (name of your specialty here) training are:

- A. Describe your goals here.....

Course Flow Options

This course contains knowledge development, a confined water skill development session (edit or delete as appropriate for your specialty) and (# of dives here) open water training dives. When possible, you should conduct the knowledge development session before any confined water training. The confined water skill development session must precede the open water training dives.

There are (# of dives) open water dives to complete. You may rearrange skill sequences within each dive; however, the sequence of dives must stay intact. You may add more dives as necessary to meet student divers' needs. Organize your course to incorporate environment friendly techniques throughout each dive, to accommodate student diver learning style, logistical needs, and your sequencing preferences.

Section One:

Course Standards

This section includes the course standards, recommendations, and suggestions for conducting the PADI (specialty course title here) Diver course.

Standards at a Glance

Course Standards

Minimum Instructor Rating:	PADI (your title here) Diver Distinctive Specialty Instructor
Prerequisites:	PADI Open Water Diver, or qualifying prerequisite (can edit)
Minimum Age:	(min age here) years
Ratios Open Water:	8:1 (can be different than this)
Depth	Maximum Depth 18 metres / 60 feet: 6-12 metres/20-40 feet recommended (edit as necessary)
Hours:	Recommended: 10 (edit as necessary)
Minimum Confined Water Dives:	1 (edit as necessary)
Minimum Open Water Dives:	2 (edit as necessary)

Materials and Equipment - Instructor and Student::

- (Your Outline Title here) Diver Course Instructor Outline (Instructor only)
- Student and Instructor equipment as outlined in the PADI Instructor Manual, General Standards and Procedures
- (Equipment specific to your specialty here)
- Specialty equipment and supplies:
 - a. Spare parts kit
 - b. Extra weights in small increments - for student trim
 - c. (anything else you might need here)

Instructor Prerequisites

To qualify to teach the (title of specialty here) Diver course, an individual must be a Teaching status PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer or higher. PADI Instructors may apply for the (title of specialty here) Diver Distinctive Specialty Instructor rating after completing a Specialty Instructor Training course with a PADI Course Director, or by providing proof of experience and applying directly to PADI. For further detail, reference Membership Standards in the General Standards and Procedures section of your PADI Instructor Manual.

Student Diver Prerequisites

By the start of the course, a diver must be:

1. Certified as a PADI Open Water Diver (edit as appropriate) or have a qualifying certification from another training organization. In this case, a qualifying certification is defined as proof of entry-level scuba certification with a minimum of four open water training dives. Verify student diver prerequisite skills and provide remediation as necessary.
2. Be at least (min age here) years.

Supervision and Ratios

Open Water Dives

A Teaching status PADI [\(title of specialty here\)](#) Diver Specialty Instructor must be present and in **direct control** of all activities and must ensure that all performance requirements are met. After all student divers have successfully demonstrated the required skills, the Instructor may exercise indirect control over the balance of the dive.

The ratio for confined and open water dives is 8 student divers per instructor (8:1). [\(edit as appropriate\)](#)

Site, Depths, and Hours

Site

Choose sites with conditions and environments suitable for completing requirements. Shallow dives will provide divers with more time to complete tasks. Use different open water dive sites, if possible, to give students divers experience in dealing with a variety of environmental conditions (incorporate environment friendly techniques throughout each dive) and logistical challenges.

Depths

6-12 metres/20-40 feet recommended [\(edit if necessary\)](#)

18 metres/60 feet limit [\(edit if necessary\)](#)

Hours

The PADI [\(title of specialty here\)](#) Diver course includes [\(# of dives\)](#) open water dives. Conduct dives During daylight hours between sunrise and sunset. The minimum number of recommended hours is [\(# of hours here\)](#).

Assessment Standards

The student diver must demonstrate accurate and adequate knowledge during the open water dives and must perform all skills (procedures and motor skills) fluidly, with little difficulty, in a manner that demonstrates minimal or no stress.

Certification Requirements and Procedures

By the completion of the course, student divers must complete *all* performance requirements for [\(name of specialty here\)](#) Diver Open Water Dives One and Two. [\(edit if necessary\)](#)

The instructor certifying the student diver must ensure that all certification requirements have been met. The certifying instructor obtains a [\(title of specialty here\)](#) Diver certification by submitting a completed, signed PIC to the appropriate PADI office.

Section Two: Knowledge Development Conduct

Use the following teaching outline as a road map of the conduct, content, sequence and structure for the (title of specialty here) Diver course. The result should be student divers with theoretical knowledge and pragmatic experience who can adapt what they have learned to (what will your students be able to do). **Student divers will be able to explain the following learning objectives.**

Knowledge Development

Learning Objectives

By the end of knowledge development, student divers will be able to explain:

Type topic here

- **Objective in black bold here (example on next line)**
- **What are three safety considerations for diving a full face mask?**

Continue to list your topics and Objectives until all Knowledge Development topics are covered

Knowledge Development Teaching Outline

A. Course Introduction

1. Staff and student diver introductions

Note:

Introduce yourself and assistants. Explain your background with (specialty) diving if your student divers aren't familiar with you.

Give times, dates and locations as appropriate for classroom presentations, confined water skill development sessions, and open water dives.

1. Course goals – (put your course goal here)
2. Course overview
 - a. Classroom presentations
 - b. Confined water session. There will be at least one confined water session where the skills necessary to (explain here) will be demonstrated and practiced by student divers to gain confidence and mastery before the open water training dives.
 - c. Open water dives. There will be two (edit if necessary) open water dives.
3. Certification
 - a. Upon successfully completing the course, you will receive the (title of specialty here) Diver Specialty certification.
 - b. Certification means that you will be qualified to plan, organize, and make dives in conditions generally comparable to or better than, those in which you are trained. (edit as necessary)

Note:

Use the PADI Student Record File. Explain all course costs and materials, and what the costs do and do not include, including equipment use, dive site fees, etc. Explain what equipment student divers must have for the course, and what you will provide. Cover and review points about scheduling and attendance.

5. Class requirements
 - a. Complete paperwork.
 - b. Course costs.
 - c. Equipment needs.

d. Schedule and attendance.

B. Course Content (here list your Performance Requirements and supply the necessary info to provide the answer) See the example below.

• What are three safety considerations for diving a full face mask? (example)

1. O2 Toxicity at depth.
2. Unconscious diver at the surface.
3. CO2 retention and build up

Section Three: Confined Water Dives Conduct

Performance Requirements

By the end of the confined water training session, student divers will be able to:

• (here list your performance requirements for your confined water training session) For a reference look at the Confined Water section of any PADI Program that requires confined water.

Below outline how the confined water session will be conducted

- A. Briefing for (topic of session) confined water session.
 1. Review objectives and sequence of skills.
 2. Coach divers through assembly and gear-up as needed.
 3. Evaluate student equipment for adequacy.
 4. Identify potential problems and offer suggestions.
- B. Gear up and enter water.
- C. (fill in with skills specific to this training session)
- D. etc. etc.
- E. Have divers to perform the skills in the sequence above.
- F. Debrief student divers.

Section Four: Open Water Dives

General Open Water Considerations

1. Involve student divers in dive-planning activities. Give special attention to student diver anxiety and stress levels, in addition to student diver equipment preparedness.
2. Conduct a thorough briefing. The better the briefing, the more smoothly the dive will proceed. Assign buddy teams according to ability (weak with strong) and establish a check-in/check-out procedure.
3. Assign logistical duties to staff and review emergency protocols.
4. Remind divers to familiarize themselves with their buddies equipment.
5. Evaluate diver's thermal protection for appropriateness for the dive site and

- expected conditions.
5. Make yourself available to answer questions during equipment assembly, safety checks and gear-up.

Performance Requirements

By the end of the open water dives, student divers will be able to:

Dive One

- **Buoyancy Check**
- **Specific performance requirements for this dive (based on your course)**
- **etc, etc**

- A. Briefing
 1. Evaluation of conditions
 2. Facilities at dive site
 3. Entry technique to be used – location dependant
 4. Exit technique to be used – location dependent
 5. Bottom composition and topography around training site
 6. Depth range on bottom
 7. Ending tank pressure – when to terminate the dive
 8. Interesting and helpful facts about the dive site
 9. **Sequence of training dive – review Dive 1 skills**
 - a. **Suiting up**
 - b. **Pre-dive Safety check**
 - c. **Buoyancy check at the surface**
 - d. **Skills here**
 - e. **and here, and more as needed**
 - f. **Dive for fun and pleasure**
 - g. **Ascent**
- B. Pre-dive procedures
- C. Descent
- D. Dive 1 skills
- E. Post-dive procedures
- F. Debriefing
- G. Log dive (instructor signs logbook)

Dive Two

- **Buoyancy Check**
- **Specific performance requirements for this dive (based on your course)**
- **etc, etc**

- A. Briefing
 1. Evaluation of conditions
 2. Facilities at dive site
 3. Entry technique to be used – location dependant
 4. Exit technique to be used – location dependent
 5. Bottom composition and topography around training site

6. Depth range on bottom
7. Ending tank pressure – when to terminate the dive
8. Interesting and helpful facts about the dive site
9. **Sequence of training dive – review Dive 2 skills**
 - a. **Suiting up**
 - b. **Pre-dive Safety check**
 - c. **Buoyancy check at the surface**
 - d. **Skills here**
 - e. **and here, and more as needed**
 - f. **Dive for fun and pleasure**
 - g. **Ascent**

- B. Pre-dive procedures
- C. Descent
- D. Dive 2 skills
- E. Post-dive procedures
- F. Debriefing
- G. Log dive (instructor signs logbook)