

# **TAMU Galveston DIVE Program**

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### What kind of certifications does TAMUG offer?

We offer a wide range of dive training and certification courses for divers pursuing basic, advanced, or specialized recreational certifications, or for those interested in pursuing professional careers in scientific, technical, or recreational diving. (See back for our training progression). Our primary certifying agencies are TDI/SDI, DAN, NAUI, and AAUS.

#### Why should I take dive classes here instead of at a dive shop?

Generally, an open water class taken at a scuba shop is completed in two weekends, and often most of the instruction is conducted via e-learning. We conduct our classes over 14 weeks, with in-water sessions and lecture sessions EVERY week, which vastly increases student comfort and competence. Additionally, our courses can be credited toward a minor in Diving Technology and Methods!

#### What do I need to buy to participate?

At the entry level, students are only required to buy a mask, snorkel, fins, and booties. In later classes, students may be required to buy wetsuits and accessories such as underwater slates, surface marker buoys, whistles, compasses. We also welcome students who have or wish to buy their full complement of diving equipment, but access to all life support equipment (tanks, regulators, BCDs, etc) and most accessories are included in course fees.

#### What are my employment options in or after DIVE?

There are two opportunities for student employment WITHIN the program: we employ student Divemasters to support the safety mission of the DIVE program, and Dive Locker workers, who support equipment service and maintenance. Many of our grads go on to conduct diving research in graduate school, but others are employed with NASA, NOAA, the Corps of Engineers, Texas and Louisiana Parks and Wildlife, Moody Gardens, the Pacific Whale Conservancy, SeaWorld, and more!

#### How do I pay for the classes, and what are the costs involved?

Courses through the TAMUG dive program do cost more than equivalent courses at a scuba shop, because they are academic courses that have lecture and lab components (and therefore, include both tuition and field trip fees). ALL scuba classes include field trips, including anything from local Texas lakes to California, Florida, or Mexico! If you are a student in the DIVE minor, your DIVE classes counting toward the minor may be covered by financial aid.

#### What are the classes like?

Classes are taught by professional, experienced faculty and provide hands-on, high-impact dive training in open water and in the

#### What is the Minor in Dive Technology and Methods all about?

#### Requirements:

- Complete 16 hours total (see training progression on the back)
- Minimum of 8 hours at the 300-400 level
- Must complete a medical statement or have recreational scuba divers physician examination
- Must maintain a GPA of 2.5
- Must maintain good health and fitness appropriate to the level of diving required

#### Can I count certifications I got at a dive shop for academic credit?

No, but certifications that you got at a dive shop can count as a prerequisite that allows you to accelerate your training.

#### Can I take classes out of order?

Sometimes! In the event of a direct prerequisite, you must take the prerequisite first (or provide evidence of equivalency).

#### What extracurricular dive activities are there?

TAMUG DIVE also supports the TAMUG dive club and a Hullabaloo U Course! You do NOT need to have taken a dive class (or even be a diver!) to participate in DIVE club, but you will need to show proof of certification to be allowed to dive.

#### I have more questions! Where can I find answers?

Check the website! http://www.tamug.edu/diveprogram/. We do our best to keep the website updated with current information concerning the dive manual, course offerings, procedures, faculty/staff, etc.

Otherwise, feel free to contact Jesse Pintacuda (jpintacuda@tamu.edu), the Academic Coordinator for the DIVE program.



# **TAMUG DIVE Training Progression**

#### DIVE 250: Scuba Diving I \*

- 4 credit hours
- Students earn certifications in recreational Basic Open Water and Nitrox
- Introductory level of dive training, suitable for beginners

#### DIVE 260: Scuba Diving III \*

- 4 credit hours
- Students earn recreational diving certifications in Advanced Open Water and Rescue Scuba Diver
- Also includes certification in DAN Diving First Aid for Professional Divers

### DIVE 310: Boat and **Wreck Diving**

- 3 credit hours
- Students earn certifications in SDI Wreck and Boat Diving.
- Conducted offshore in Florida & Gulf of Mexico.

# **Other Training Offerings**

#### **DIVE 357: Dive Leadership:** Divemaster ° \*

- 4 credit hours
- Students earn first major professional certification in diving
- Learn and implement methods of diving leadership and instruction
- Becoming eligible to apply for a position as a TAMUG Divemaster

### DIVE 405: Dive **Expedition Planning**

- 2 credit hours
- Studies in planning major dive trips.
- Asynchronous online offering.

# **DIVE 331: Alternative**

**Diving Technologies** 

- 3 credit hours
- Students earn recreational certification in fullface diving and underwater photography
- · Increase diving expertise in alternative diving equipment modes and underwater photography

# **DIVE 410: AAUS Scientific**

4 credit hours

Diving

- Students earn first research qualification in diving, necessary for future research with many academic and professional partners
- Learn research methods for working underwater.

# DIVE 411: Offshore

- Research Diving ° 4 credit hours
- Students have the opportunity to dive offshore with an external agency (i.e., NOAA, TPWD)
- Conducted offshore.

#### **DIVE 489:** Field Experience in **Scientific Methods**

- 4 credit hours
- Earn advanced, fieldbased research qualification in diving, and practice research design
- Conducted in Catalina, California!

#### **DIVE 430: Techniques in** Overhead Environment °

- 4 credit hours
- Students earn certifications in Cavern diving.
- · Conducted in Florida!

### KEY



Indicates course included in DIVE minor



Indicates non-academic training (not offered for course credit, but students can earn certification)



Indicates prerequisite

- Indicates that equivalent certification can serve as prerequisite for next course
- Indicates that class has a required number of prerequisite dives

### **KINE 199: Physical Activity (Conditioning Swimming)**

- · 1 credit hour
- Optional course to help students develop swim skills & watermanship
- Suitable for all levels

## DIVE 440: Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures °

- 3 credit hours
- Advanced level course introducing the basics of technical diving.

#### Dive Leadership: Instructor

- · Non-academic course
- Advanced level professional course allowing students to transition from Divergeter to Dive Instructor