

## UNC-IMS AAUS DIVE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & FEES

9/16/2015

### **Purpose and Participation:**

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) is to facilitate the development of safe and productive divers through education, research, advocacy and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications and operations. The UNC Institute of Marine Sciences is an AAUS member program. We operate under the basic tenets of AAUS and strive to adapt AAUS rules and guidelines to best meet the needs of scientific divers within the UNC Chapel Hill system.

Participation in the UNC-IMS AAUS program is primarily intended for UNC-CH undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral associates, staff and faculty engaged in diving for university-sponsored research. Non-UNC-CH researchers collaborating with UNC-CH researchers and not covered by an AAUS program at their home institution may petition the IMS Diving Control Board for admission to the UNC-IMS AAUS program.

Questions about the IMS-AAUS dive program should be directed to Glenn Safrit. Phone: (252) 726-6841 ext. 151; Email: [gsafrit@email.unc.edu](mailto:gsafrit@email.unc.edu)

### **Obtaining Active Status in the UNC-IMS AAUS Dive Program:**

Divers seeking to obtain active status in the UNC-IMS AAUS dive program fall into three categories: (1) divers already AAUS certified by another program and having active status in that program; (2) divers already AAUS certified by another program but who are not in active status; and (3) divers who have not previously been AAUS certified. All divers seeking to obtain active status in the UNC-IMS AAUS dive program must be a member of the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and be covered by one of their diving medical insurance plans. Additional requirements for each category of diver are described below.

- (1) For divers previously certified by another program and having active status, entry into the IMS-AAUS program requires the transfer of records from the diver's former AAUS program to the IMS Diving Safety Officer (DSO) and a check-out dive with the IMS DSO.
- (2) For divers previously certified by another program but not having active status, entry into the IMS-AAUS program requires a transfer of records from the former AAUS program. The IMS-AAUS Diving Control Board (BCB) will review the diver's records and make recommendations to the DSO for necessary remedial training, certification renewals and check-out dives.
- (3) Divers who have not previously been AAUS certified must meet the requirements for AAUS diver-in-training certification (including all pre-requisites). IMS offers two course options that are designed to satisfy these requirements (see below).

## **Maintaining Active Status in the UNC-IMS AAUS Dive Program**

To remain an “active diver” in the IMS-AAUS program the following conditions must be met. Further details are provided in the IMS Standards Manual for Scientific Diving.

- The diver has passed a diving medical evaluation within the time frame specified in the IMS Standards Manual for Scientific Diving. Please note that a diver cannot conduct AAUS-sanctioned diving if his medical evaluation is not current.
- The diver is up-to-date with required certifications, which includes those for CPR/AED, First Aid, and DAN Emergency Oxygen training. Please refer to the IMS Diving Manual for the re-certification schedules. Re-training courses are provided by the IMS DSO (see below).
- Regulators and BCs must have been serviced by a certified service technician within the past 12 months.
- The diver must log 12 research or proficiency dives within a moving 12-month window. To maintain a specific depth certification, the diver must dive to the depth level of the certification once every 6 months.
- The diver must log his/her dives in a timely manner. Failure to log dives is grounds for the DSO, with approval of the DCB, to remove a diver from “active” status. A diver deactivated due to the failure to log dives can regain active status by logging scientific and proficiency dives made during the specified time period provided the number of dives meets the AAUS requirement. The DSO will not provide a Letter of Reciprocity for any diver lacking active status.
- A diver who has not made a sufficient numbers of dives to maintain active status and desires to regain active status, must petition the Diving Control Board (DCB). The DCB will decide what actions are needed to regain active status. Relatively inexperienced divers who have made few to no dives over several years may be required to re-take an IMS AAUS diving course.

### **IMS-AAUS Dive Course Offerings:**

The IMS-AAUS dive program offer two primary course options: a 1-week basic course and a 2-week course that provides additional training for NITROX and open-water certifications and instruction in methods related to underwater scientific data collection. In addition IMS offers standalone check-out dives and recertification courses as described below. Course prices are listed in the fee schedule. Scuba tanks, air fills, text and supplies needed for all courses are provided by IMS and included in the amounts listed in the fee schedule.

### **Prerequisites**

All divers desiring to participate in an IMS-AAUS dive course must meet the following prerequisites:

- be a member of the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and be covered by one of their diving medical insurance plans;
- have SCUBA certification from a nationally recognized certification organization, typically either NAUI or PADI;
- have passed a diving medical physical and have provided the doctor-signed medical evaluation form to the DSO within the appropriate time period;
- have the following personal dive items: mask, fins, snorkel, watch or dive computer, a regulator and BC that have been serviced by a certified service technician within the past 12 months; and a wet suit appropriated for diving during the season of the dive course.

Basic AAUS Scientific Diver-In-Training Certification Course (1-week):

This course is designed to meet requirements for AAUS diver-in-training certification and consists of: (1) DAN First Aid for Professional Divers certification, which includes CPR/AED Healthcare Provider, Emergency Oxygen Provider, Neurological Assessment and Hazardous Marine Life Injuries; (2) swim test evaluation; (3) scuba skills check-out in open-water; (4) rescue skills evaluation in open water; (5) underwater navigation; and (6) accident management and evacuation procedures. A total of 4-6 dives are made during the course dependent on weather conditions. A total of 12 dives (<30 feet) must be completed before a diver-in-training candidate can receive a 30-foot Scientific Diver Certification.

This course is typically taught in late spring, although additional offerings may be scheduled depending on demand. Priority admission to the course is given to individuals enrolled or employed at UNC-CH, then to others on a space-available basis in order of receipt of a deposit payment that will be credited toward the course cost. Course cost is listed in the fee schedule.

Morehead City Field Site (MCFS) AAUS Scientific Diver Certification Course (2-weeks):

Beyond meeting requirements for diver-in-training certification (see 1-week course above), the 2-week course also provide training/certification for: (1) PADI Advanced Diver; (2) PADI Rescue Diver; (3) PADI Nitrox certification; (4) designing and building underwater data collection tools such as arm slates and quadrats; (5) PADI Underwater Digital Photography; and (6) learning the basics of conducting underwater science, including statistics to analyze the data. Weather permitting, at least 12 dives are made during the course.

This course is offered only in August, prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Priority admission to the course is given to students enrolled in the MCFS course. If space is available, other individuals enrolled or employed at UNC-CH or outside of UNC-CH may also enroll and will be taken in order of receipt of a course deposit payment that will be credited toward the course cost. Course cost is listed in the fee schedule.

## Check-Out Dives

Check-out dives not associated with IMS-AAUS dive courses, and any other dives requiring or requesting supervision of the IMS DSO, are available through the IMS AAUS program. Two types of DSO-associated diving are offered: (1) half-day shore-based diving that will provided at least one dive, although typically 2-3 dives can be made during a session depending on tides and other conditions, and (2) boat-based offshore trips for divers needing dives in excess of 30 feet. Check-out dives will be conducted at a site of the DSO's choice. Costs for these dives are listed in the fee schedule.

## Re-certification Courses

Based on diver demand, the IMS-AAUS dive program offers courses that are required to maintain active status in the IMS-AAUS program.

- CPR/AED (American Heart Association)
- CPR/AED HCP (American Heart Association)
- First Aid (American Heart Association)
- First Aid (Divers Alert Network)
- Emergency Oxygen (Divers Alert Network)
- Neurological Assessment (Divers Alert Network)
- Hazardous Marine Life Injuries (Divers Alert Network)
- Diving Emergency Management Provider (Divers Alert Network)

Re-certification course cost is listed in the fee schedule and includes all required text and supplies.

## IMS AAUS Fee Schedule:

Course/Service	Certifying Organization	Level	Cost Per Person (\$) UNC-CH	Cost Per Person (\$) non-UNC-CH
CPR/AED <sup>1</sup>	AHA <sup>2</sup>	Basic Life Support	25	50
CPR/AED HCP <sup>1</sup>	AHA	Health Care Provider	25	50
First Aid <sup>1</sup>	AHA	Heart Saver First Aid	25	50
Emergency Oxygen <sup>1</sup>	DAN <sup>3</sup>	basic	30	55
Neurological Assessment <sup>1</sup>	DAN	basic	25	50
HMLI <sup>1</sup>	DAN	Hazardous Marine Life Injuries	25	50
First Aid <sup>1</sup>	DAN	Diving First Aid for Professional Divers	50	75
DEMP <sup>1</sup>	DAN	Diving Emergency Management Provider	50	75
Scientific Diver - basic	AAUS <sup>4</sup>	basic 1-week course	300 <sup>5</sup>	750 <sup>5</sup>
Scientific Diver - Morehead City Field Site Course	AAUS	advanced 2-week course	900 <sup>6</sup>	1200 <sup>6</sup>
Dive with IMS Dive Safety Officer <sup>1</sup> (half day shore-based)	AAUS	to be determined	75	150
Dive with IMS Dive Safety Officer <sup>1</sup> (boat-based offshore dives)	AAUS	to be determined	contact IMS for pricing	contact IMS for pricing

<sup>1</sup>When not included with a dive course; <sup>2</sup>American Heart Association; <sup>3</sup>Divers Alert Network; <sup>4</sup>American Academy of Underwater Sciences, <sup>5</sup>course deposit \$150; <sup>6</sup>course deposit \$300