

# Open Water Diver



## Get Certified! Take a Scuba Lesson with the PADI Open Water Diver Course

Get your PADI scuba certification. If you've always wanted to learn how to scuba dive, discover new adventures or simply see the wondrous world beneath the waves, this is where it starts. The PADI Open Water Diver course is the world's most popular scuba course, and has introduced millions of people to the adventurous diving lifestyle. [Start your scuba certification online.](#)



## What You Learn

The PADI Open Water Diver course consists of three main phases:

- Knowledge Development ([online](#), home study or in a [classroom](#) ) to understand basic principles of scuba diving
- [Confined Water Dives](#) to learn basic scuba skills
- [Open Water Dives](#) to review your skills and explore!

If you've tried diving through a [Discover Scuba Diving experience or resort course](#), the skills you learned may be credited towards a portion of the full PADI Open Water Diver course certification.

## Prerequisites

To enroll in the PADI Open Diver course or Junior Open Water Diver course, you must

- Be 10 years or older (PADI eLearning requires an extra registration step for students under 13 years due to international internet laws)

## The Fun Part

The fun part about this course is . . . well, just about all of it because learning to dive is incredible. You [breathe underwater](#) for the first time (something you'll never forget) and learn what you need to know to become a certified diver. During the course, you'll make at least five pool dives and four dives at local dive sites under the supervision of your PADI Instructor.

## Get College Credit

You may be able to earn [college credit for the PADI Open Water Diver course!](#)

## The Scuba Gear You Use



In the PADI Open Water Diver course, you learn to use [basic scuba gear](#) including a [dive computer](#), and standard [accessories](#). The equipment you wear varies somewhat, depending upon whether you're diving in [tropical](#), [temperate](#) or [cold water](#)

Check with your [local dive shop](#) about the gear you'll use during this course. You can find most everything at the [scuba diving shop](#) in your area.

## The Learning Materials You Need



PADI offers a variety of home-study materials for the Open Water Diver course. While [eLearning](#) is the most convenient option, you may also choose a book and DVD package or a multimedia DVD-ROM.

PADI's Open Water Diver materials cover what you need to know about basic scuba diving skills, terminology and safety procedures. For each concept you'll read a description and watch a video demonstration. Then you'll jump in the pool (or pool-like environment) to practice these skills with your instructor. Later, as a certified diver, use the course materials as a reference guide for future diving adventures and to review what you learned.

Note: Enroll in the [PADI Open Water Diver Course Online](#) for immediate computer-based access to the manual and video integrated into seamless, guided online learning.

To purchase these products, contact your local PADI Instructor, [dive shop or resort](#).

## Start Now



You don't have to wait to get going. With PADI eLearning and the [PADI Open Water Diver Course Online](#), you can start right now. The PADI Open Water Diver Course Online lets you learn the background information you need before each dive at your own pace through friendly, interactive learning. It even helps you choose the PADI dive shop where you'll make those dives.