



SSI DIVE PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

(LAST UPDATED OCTOBER 2022 – PRICING/STANDARDS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME)

Option 1 – SSI Dive Master: SSI Open Water Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Master Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Dive Guide + SSI Science of Diving → SSI Divemaster

Option 2 – SSI Assistant Instructor: SSI Open Water Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Master Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Dive Guide (or equivalent) + Science of Diving → SSI Divemaster → SSI Assistant Instructor

Option 3 – SSI Open Water Scuba Instructor: SSI Open Water Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Master Diver (or equivalent) → SSI Dive Guide (or equivalent) + Science of Diving → SSI Divemaster → SSI Assistant Instructor → SSI Open Water Scuba Instructor

1. SSI Dive Guide to SSI Dive Master Certification

- a. Intent:** The SSI Dive Guide program provides candidates with the knowledge and training necessary to supervise and guide certified divers on recreational scuba dives. The SSI Divemaster rating recognizes candidates that have the knowledge and training necessary to perform the duties of a certified assistant. These duties include assisting SSI Instructors with conducting entry-level and continuing education scuba training programs.
- b. Course Costs:** (prerequisite course costs not included)
 - i. \$700 - tuition
 - ii. \$165 + tax - Dive Guide digital materials
 - iii. \$75 + tax - Dive Guide/Dive Master Slate Package
 - iv. \$70 - One time SSI professional membership fee (paid directly to SSI)
- c. Candidate Prerequisites:**
 - i. Minimum age: 18 years old
 - ii. Minimum of 40 logged open water dives totaling 25 hours or more
 - iii. Have the following SSI certifications or the equivalent from a recognized training agency:
 - 1. Diver Stress & Rescue
 - 2. React Right (CPR/First Aid/AED/O₂ Provider)
 - iv. Have the following SSI certifications or the equivalent from a recognized training agency, or provide proof of experience by showing at least five (5) logged experience dives in each of the following areas:
 - 1. Deep Diving
 - 2. Underwater Navigation
 - 3. Night & Limited Visibility
 - 4. Enriched Air Nitrox

5. Perfect Buoyancy
 6. Science of Diving
 - d. Course Completion Requirements** (Total of 35-50 hours - The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual instructor, based on the candidate's needs, abilities and local water conditions.)
 - i. Log at least 60 open water dives totaling 40 hours or more
 - ii. Pass all SSI requirements and evaluations listed in the instructor manual for Dive Guide
 - iii. Complete the SSI Fish I.D. program
 - iv. Complete the Candidate Water Fitness Evaluation
 1. Tread water for 15 minutes without any aid or floatation device
 2. Swim a distance of 700 meters without stopping and within 20 minutes using a mask, snorkel and fins (no buoyancy device allowed)
 3. Swim a distance of 375 meters without stopping and without the use of any swim aids
 4. Swim a distance of 25 meters underwater using a mask and fins
 5. Perform a full, unconscious diver on the surface rescue tow a total distance of 100 meters within 8 minutes (both parties must be in a Total Dive System)
 - v. Complete the program's final exam with a passing score of at least 90%
 - e. SSI Divemaster Active Status Qualifications:**
 - i. Dive Guide/Divemaster may guide certified divers on recreational scuba dives
 - ii. Teach, supervise, and issue recognition cards for the SSI Snorkel Diver program
 - iii. Act as a certified assistant for all SSI recreational scuba courses.
 - iv. Assist during open water training dives by taking no more than two (2) students at a time on excursion dives
 - v. Qualify as a Training Specialist for the SSI Ecology Specialty programs
 - vi. Enroll in an SSI Assistant Instructor Training Course
- 2. SSI Assistant Instructor Certification**
- a. Intent:** The SSI Assistant Instructor program provides candidates with the knowledge and training necessary to perform the duties of an assistant instructor. These duties include conducting entry-level scuba training under the supervision of an Open Water Instructor, and independently conducting Scuba Skills Updates, Perfect Buoyancy and Try Scuba programs.
 - b. Course Costs** (prerequisite course costs not included):
 - i. \$1,000 - tuition
 - ii. \$450 + tax - Assistant Instructor digital materials
 - iii. \$160 + tax - Dive Professional Instructor Package
 - iv. \$70 - One time SSI professional membership fee (paid directly to SSI, if not already an active status SSI dive professional)
 - c. Candidate Prerequisites:**
 - i. Minimum age: 18 years old
 - ii. Have logged at least 60 open water dives totaling 40 hours or more.
 - iii. Have the following active status SSI certifications or an equivalent from a recognized training agency:
 1. Divemaster

- d. Course Completion Requirements** (Total of 35-42 hours - The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual instructor, based on the candidate's needs, abilities and local water conditions):
- i. Log at least 75 open water dives totaling 50 hours or more
 - ii. Read and all study material and academic sessions for Assistant Instructor
 - iii. Complete the Candidate Water Fitness Evaluation
 1. Tread water for 15 minutes without any aid or floatation device
 2. Swim a distance of 700 meters without stopping and within 20 minutes using a mask, snorkel and fins (no buoyancy device allowed)
 3. Swim a distance of 375 meters without stopping and without the use of any swim aids
 4. Swim a distance of 25 meters underwater using a mask and fins
 5. Perform a full, unconscious diver on the surface rescue tow a total distance of 100 meters within 8 minutes (both parties must be in a Total Dive System)
 - iv. Complete the program's final exam with a passing score of at least 90%
 - v. Pass all requirements and evaluations required for Assistant Instructor qualification
- e. Active Status Qualifications:**
- i. Active status Assistant Instructors may teach, supervise and issue certifications for the following programs:
 1. SSI's Explorers Program
 2. Try Scuba
 3. Scuba Skills Update
 4. Perfect Buoyancy
 - ii. In addition to the duties performed by an SSI Divemaster, active status Assistant Instructors may also:
 1. Teach the Open Water Diver academic and pool/confined water sessions at Denver Divers (except for emergency ascent skills) under the direct supervision of an active status Open Water Instructor.
 2. Directly supervise and evaluate surface skills during open water certification dives for the Open Water Diver program under the direct supervision of an active status Open Water Instructor.
 3. Qualify to become a Training Specialist for some SSI Specialty programs.
 4. Enroll in an Instructor Training Course.

NOTE: Anyone who registers for the Dive Guide/Divemaster and Assistant Instructor programs simultaneously will get a discounted bundle price of \$2,300 for both programs. The costs for the combined professional programs do not include prerequisites. The bundled price includes tuitions and necessary materials as outlined above. Taxes to be paid on materials and SSI professional fees are not included.

3. SSI Open Water Instructor Certification

- a. Intent:** The SSI Instructor Training Course provides candidates with the knowledge and training necessary to organize and conduct entry-level scuba training courses. It is also intended to prepare candidates to successfully complete an Instructor Evaluation.
- b. Course Costs** (prerequisite course costs not included):
- i. \$1,500 – tuition
 - ii. \$450 + tax – Instructor Training Course digital materials

- iii. \$160 + tax – Dive Professional Instructor Package
- iv. \$70 – One time SSI professional membership fee (paid directly to SSI, if not already an active status SSI dive professional)

c. Candidate Prerequisites:

- i. Minimum age: 18 years old
- ii. Have logged at least 75 dives totaling 50 hours or more
- iii. Have the following active status SSI certifications or an equivalent from a recognized training agency:
 - 1. Divemaster
 - 2. Enriched Air Nitrox 40

d. Course Completion Requirements (Total of 35-42 hours - The number of classes, hours and sessions per day are set by the individual instructor, based on the candidate's needs, abilities and local water conditions):

- i. Log at least 100 open water dives totaling 65 hours or more
- ii. Read and all study material and academic sessions for Open Water Instructor
- iii. Complete the Candidate Water Fitness Evaluation
 - 1. Tread water for 15 minutes without any aid or floatation device
 - 2. Swim a distance of 700 meters without stopping and within 20 minutes using a mask, snorkel and fins (no buoyancy device allowed)
 - 3. Swim a distance of 375 meters without stopping and without the use of any swim aids
 - 4. Swim a distance of 25 meters underwater using a mask and fins
 - 5. Perform a full, unconscious diver on the surface rescue tow a total distance of 100 meters within 8 minutes (both parties must be in a Total Dive System)
- iv. Complete the program's final exam with a passing score of at least 90%
- v. Pass all requirements and evaluations required for the Instructor Training Course qualification
- vi. Pass all requirements as outlined in the Instructor Evaluation (Evaluation must be completed within six months of completion of the ITC)

e. Active Status Qualifications:

- i. Active status Open Water Instructors may teach, supervise and issue all certifications active status Assistant instructors may teach and are qualified to teach, supervise and issue certifications for the following additional programs:
 - 1. Basic Diver
 - 2. Referral Diver
 - 3. Indoor Diver
 - 4. Scuba Diver
 - 5. Open Water Diver
 - 6. Experienced Diver Test
 - 7. Advanced Adventurer
 - 8. Diver Stress and Rescue
 - 9. Enriched Air Nitrox
 - 10. Dive Guide
 - 11. Qualify to become a Training Specialist for any SSI Specialty program