More Information about the Friday Harbor Laboratories Scientific Diving Course

Please be aware that acceptance to this course means we are committed to offering you all the training required for scientific diving; certification is NOT guaranteed! Scientific diver certification will be granted if and when you have demonstrated an appropriate level of skill and comfort to maintain your own (and your buddies’) safety while doing scientific work underwater.

**COURSE PRE-REQUISTES:**

1. A *minimum* of 20 dives is required for scientific certification. This is to ensure an appropriate level of experience prior to more advanced training and task-loading. Please honestly state the number of dives you can prove in a logbook at the time of this application.

2. Upon being accepted to this course, you will be required to take a full SCUBA physical exam including a chest X-ray and spirometry test. This can be done at the Employee Health Clinic on UW Main campus in Seattle, or with a physician of your own choosing (with this latter option, you will also need to coordinate through UW Employee Health to obtain the proper forms and submit the results for review by an expert in diving medicine). This process will need to be started *as soon as possible* towards the beginning of the summer so there’s time for any additional tests deemed necessary by doctors.

3. You will be expected to have/obtain your own SCUBA gear by the start of this course including an exposure suit (full 7mm wet suit or dry suit), fins, mask AND snorkel, and a working BC. Your regulator must be inspected by a qualified professional (with records for proof, if possible!) within the past 12 months, and you must have an alternate air source in the form of an octopus second stage, air-2 system, or a redundant small tank with its own within-inspection regulator. At FHL, it’s only acceptable for half your weight to be kept in BC integrated-weight pockets; the remainder needs to be on a weight belt with standard right-hand release. Any modern computer (air-integrated or wrist-mounted) is acceptable; if you don’t have one you will be required to have air and depth gauges and to specify which dive tables you use.

Additional information on medical clearance and equipment requirements will be provided following acceptance. If you have any additional questions about course requirements and content, or anything else, please contact instructor and Dive Safety Officer Pema Kitaeff, at pema@u.washington.edu or 206-543-0876.

Thank you for your interest!