

Texas A&M University DIVE Program FAQs

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, fins, and snorkel. In later classes, students may be required to buy wetsuits and accessories such as underwater slates, 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 pool.

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?

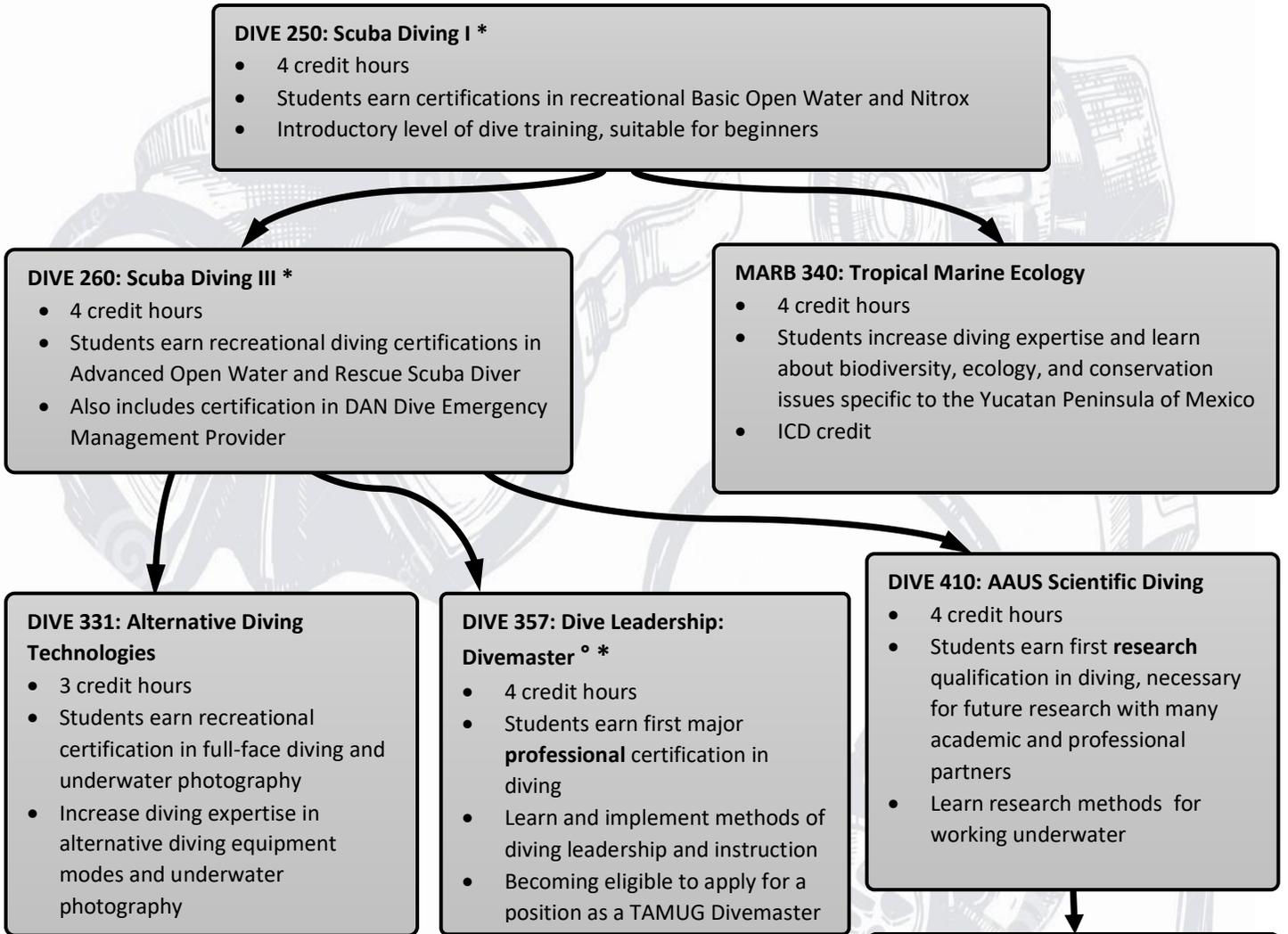
TAMUG DIVE also supports the TAMUG dive club and a First Year Experience! You do NOT need to have taken a dive class (or even be a diver!) to participate in DIVE club, but you will need to show proof of certification to be allowed to dive.

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 Laura White (lauragwhite@tamu.edu), who is the Scientific DSO and Academic Coordinator for the DIVE program.

TAMUG Training Progression



Other Current Training Offerings:

KINE 199: Physical Activity (Conditioning Swimming)

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

DIVE 485 OR 491: Directed Study/Research

- 1-2 credit hour
- Students develop independent diving related research project.

Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures °

- Non-academic training
- Advanced level course introducing the basics of technical diving

Dive Leadership: Instructor °

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

DIVE 489 (Number may change!): Field Experience in Scientific Methods

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

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