

Summary of PADI Courses and Programs

Key Standards

Program / Course	Min. Age	Rec. Hours	Water Training/Min. Dives	Ratio	Min. Instructor Rating	Prerequisite Certification
Emergency First Response Primary Care (CPR)	—	4-8	—	12:1:1•	EFR Instructor	—
Secondary Care (First Aid)	—	2-4	—	12:1:1•	EFR Instructor	—
Discover Snorkeling	—	—	guided snorkeling	—	Divemaster	—
Skin Diver	8	12	Confined Water (1 skin dive recommended)	16:1 (10:1)	Divemaster	—
PADI Seal Team	8	2	Pool (< 2m/6ft) “ Pool (2-4m/6-12ft)	6:1 (4:1) 2:1	Instructor (Assistant Instructor) Instructor or AI	—
Bubblemaker	8	1	Pool “ Confined Open Water	6:1 (4:1) 4:1	Instructor (Assistant Instructor) Instructor or AI	—
Discover Scuba Diving	10	1-3	Pool “ Confined Open Water “ Open Water– descent line 1 scuba dive	8:1 (4:1) 4:1† (2:1) 1:1 4:1†	Instructor or AI (Divemaster) Instructor or AI (Divemaster) Instructor	—
Scuba Review	10	—	Confined Water	10:1	Divemaster	Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Discover Local Diving	10	—	1 scuba dive	—	Divemaster	PADI (Junior) Scuba Diver or qualifying rating
PADI Scuba Diver Junior Scuba Diver	15 10	19	Confined Water 2 scuba dives	10:1† 8:1†	Instructor	—
Open Water Diver Junior Open Water Diver	15 10	31	Confined Water 4 scuba dives <small>(optional skin dive recommended)</small>	10:1† 8:1†	Instructor	—
National Geographic Diver Junior National Geographic Diver	15 10	35	Confined Water 5 scuba dives <small>(optional skin dive recommended)</small>	10:1† 8:1†	Instructor – teaching at a PADI National Geographic Dive Center	—
Adventure Diver Junior Adventure Diver	15 10	9	3 scuba dives	8:1†	Instructor	Open Water Diver, Junior Open Water or qualifying rating
Advanced Open Water Diver Junior Advanced Open Water Diver	15 12	15	5 scuba dives	8:1	Instructor	Open Water Diver, Junior Open Water or qualifying rating
Rescue Diver Junior Rescue Diver	15 12	25	5 sessions	8:1	Instructor	Advanced Open Water, Junior Advanced Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Master Scuba Diver Junior Master Scuba Diver	15 12	—	—	—	Instructor	(Junior) Advanced Open Water Diver, (Junior) Rescue Diver or other qualifying ratings and 5 PADI Specialties

Note: Ratios apply to favorable conditions only. Rough, turbid, very cold water or other circumstances may warrant reduced ratios for student safety.

• 12 students to 1 instructor and 1 mannequin

† For any open water or confined open water dive that includes 10-11 year olds, the maximum ratio is 4:1, no more than 2 of the 4 may be age 10 or 11.

Summary of PADI Specialty Diver Courses — Key Standards

Specialty Course	Min. Age	Rec. Hours	Min. Open Water Training	Ratio	Min. Instructor Rating	Prerequisite Certification
Altitude Diver	10	24	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Altitude Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Boat Diver	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Boat Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Cavern Diver	18	24	4 scuba dives	8:1 2:1**	Cavern Specialty Instructor	Advanced Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
AWARE -Coral Reef Conservation	—	4	—	—	Assistant Instructor	—
Deep Diver	15	24	4 scuba dives	8:1	Deep Specialty Instructor	Adventure Diver or qualifying rating
Digital Underwater Photographer	— 10	12	1 or 2 snorkel dives 1 or 2 scuba dives	— 8:1†	Digital Underwater Photo Specialty Instructor	— (Jr.) OW Diver or qualifying
Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) Diver	12	12	2 scuba dives	8:1	DPV Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Drift Diver	12	12	2 scuba dives	8:1	Drift Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Dry Suit Diver	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Dry Suit Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Enriched Air Diver	15	18	2 scuba dives	8:1	Enriched Air Specialty Instructor	Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Equipment Specialist	10	6	—	—	Equipment Specialty Instructor (Als may qualify)	PADI Scuba Diver Junior Scuba Diver
AWARE - Fish Identification Diver	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	AWARE - Fish Identification Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Ice Diver	18	24	3 scuba dives	2:1	Ice Specialty Instructor	Advanced Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Multilevel Diver	12	12	2 scuba dives	8:1	Multilevel Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
National Geographic Diver	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Instructor – teaching at a PADI National Geographic Dive Center	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Night Diver	12	12	3 scuba dives	8:1	Night Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Peak Performance Buoyancy	10	5	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Assistant Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Project AWARE Specialist	—	4	—	—	Assistant Instructor	—
Search & Recovery Diver	12	24	4 scuba dives	8:1	Search & Recovery Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Advanced Open Water Diver or qualifying rating+
Semiclosed Rebreather Diver (Dolphin/Atlantis and Ray)	15	24	3 scuba dives	6:1	Semiclosed Rebreather Specialty Instructor	Advanced Open Water++ and Enriched Air Diver or qualifying rating
Underwater Naturalist	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Underwater Naturalist Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Underwater Navigator	10	12	3 scuba dives	8:1†	Underwater Navigation Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Underwater Photographer	10	12	2 scuba dives	8:1†	Underwater Photography Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Underwater Videographer	10	12	3 scuba dives	8:1†	Underwater Videography Specialty Instructor	(Junior) Open Water Diver or qualifying rating
Wreck Diver	15	24	4 scuba dives	8:1 2:1**	Wreck Specialty Instructor	Adventure Diver or qualifying rating

Note: Ratios apply to favorable conditions only. Rough, turbid, very cold water or other circumstances may warrant reduced ratios for student safety. **Ratio for cavern/wreck penetrations + Junior Open Water and Open Water Divers with a PADI Underwater Navigator certification also qualify ++Open Water Diver (or qualifying rating) with 10 logged dives also qualifies † For any open water dive that includes 10-11 year olds, the maximum ratio is 4:1, no more than 2 of the 4 may be age 10 or 11.

Summary of PADI Membership Level Courses and Programs — Key Standards

Membership Level	Min. Age	Rec. Hours	Ratio	Min. Instructor Rating	Prerequisite Certification
Divemaster	18	50	8:1	Open Water Scuba Instructor	Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver or qualifying ratings
EFR Instructor	18	16	12:1:1•	EFR Instructor Trainer	EFR provider-level training
Assistant Instructor	18	40	8:1	IDC Staff Instructor	Divemaster or qualifying rating
Open Water Scuba Instructor	18	90	8:1	Course Director	Divemaster or qualifying rating
Specialty Instructor	18	–	–	Course Director or PADI Office	Assistant Instructor
Master Scuba Diver Trainer	18	–	–	PADI Office	Instructor with 5 PADI Specialty Instructor ratings
DSAT Gas Blender Instructor — Enriched Air (— Trimix)	18	–	–	DSAT Gas Blender Instructor Trainer (Course Director) or PADI Office	Instructor with Enriched Air Specialty Instructor rating <i>(Certification/experience as a trimix blender)</i>
DSAT Tec Deep Instructor	18	–	–	DSAT Tec Deep Instructor Trainer (Course Director) or PADI Office	Master Scuba Diver Trainer with Enriched Air and Deep Specialty Instructor ratings
DSAT Tec Trimix Instructor	18	–	–	DSAT Tec Trimix Instructor Trainer (Course Director) or PADI Office	Master Scuba Diver Trainer and DSAT Tec Deep Instructor ratings
IDC Staff Instructor	18	18	–	Course Director	Master Scuba Diver Trainer
Master Instructor	20	–	–	PADI Office	IDC Staff Instructor and EFR Instructor
Course Director	20	–	–	PADI Office	Master Instructor
Specialty Instructor Trainer	20	–	–	PADI Office	Course Director and Specialty Instructor
EFR Instructor Trainer	20	8	12:1:1•	EFR Office	EFR Instructor with teaching experience
DSAT Gas Blender Instructor Trainer	20	–	–	PADI Office	Course Director and DSAT Gas Blender Instructor
DSAT Tec Deep Instructor Trainer	20	–	–	PADI Office	Course Director and DSAT Tec Deep Instructor
DSAT Tec Trimix Instructor Trainer	21	–	–	PADI Office	Course Director, Tec Deep Inst. Trainer, and Tec Trimix Inst.
PADI Alumni	18	–	–	–	Retired Member

• 12 students to 1 instructor and 1 mannequin