



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR OPEN WATER COURSE

On behalf of all of us here at Underwater Connection, we would like to congratulate and welcome you to your Open Water Diver Course! You are about to embark on one of the greater experiences of your lifetime. We would like to recommend a few things that will make your dive adventure more comfortable and enjoyable:

During your classroom and pool sessions, the use of our rental equipment is available to you at no extra charge. It is, however, highly recommended that you purchase your own mask, snorkel, boots, and fins. This is because those items are very personal and fit-specific. As an Open Water student at UWC, you will receive **15% OFF** your purchase of these items as well as an equipment bag. There is also a student package available that includes a dive computer. More information on this set can be found within this packet.

Again, we would like to thank you for choosing Underwater Connection as your Dive Center!

This packet includes:

- 1** Student packages and discounts
- 2** How to access your student materials
- 3** Course Syllabuses
- 4** Course Add-ons
- 5** About your Certification Weekend

1. STUDENT PACKAGES AND DISCOUNTS

You will quickly learn through the materials and your instructor about how important a good fit on your personal basic equipment is. A good fitting mask can significantly improve your experience! To help our students have the best possible experience during their class, Underwater Connection offers a **15% discount on any mask, snorkel, fins, boots and equipment bags** you choose. Although this discount will be valid until 30 days after your certification, we strongly recommend you purchase them even before class starts so you can take advantage of our **100% fit guarantee**: if your mask or fins do not fit you as expected during your pool sessions we will exchange them until you find your perfect match! Please, know that as soon as the equipment is used outside of our pool, exchanging will no longer be possible.

The following starter package is only available to our Open Water students and is only valid until you get Open Water Certified:

Open water student package:

- 15% Off any mask you choose!
- 15% Off any snorkel you choose!
- 15% Off any dive boots you choose!
- 15% Off any fins you choose!



When you buy 1 of each of the basic equipment items above, you get **the Aqualung i330R Dive Computer for only \$325! (MSRP \$399)**



2. HOW TO ACCESS YOUR STUDENT MATERIALS

You can access your student materials from any computer, smart phone or tablet. Here's a quick run down on how to access them using either a computer or mobile device. If you have any questions, please ask our staff.

For accessing your SSI account, **you will need your log in information**. You will receive an email from "My SSI" confirming your registration and giving you a random password. When you log in for the first time you can change the password to anything you would easily remember.

If on a computer, go to the website <http://my.divessi.com> (the supported web browsers are Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox) and enter your login information. On the top menu bar click on "Training" and then "Education", and "Courses". Find the Open Water Diver (OWD) and when hovering over the course's thumbnail you can click "Start program now" if accessing the materials for the first time or "Continue program" if coming back for another study session.

If on a mobile device (smartphone or tablet), download the app "My SSI" and enter your login information. On the top right corner tap the menu bar (three horizontal lines), then "Programs & Cards). On the Programs tab, tap "Open Water Diver" and download the version you prefer. We recommend at least the Mobile version with videos. Once downloaded, you can access the materials, even being offline, unless the materials were updated (in that case you will need to redownload – but don't worry, your progress will remain the same).

You can go from the mobile version to the computer version at any time. The materials take on average 6 – 8 hours to complete and you can log in as many times as needed.

You will also find other materials available to you for free, and any new updates on materials you have already purchased will be automatically updated at no charge!

3. OPEN WATER COURSE SYLLABUS*

Class and Pool Sessions

All class and pool sessions will be held at Underwater Connection.

* The following structure is subject to change, but is usually close to this schedule.

Weekend Courses

(Saturday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday)

BEFORE class starts please have the following completed:

- DocuSign packet fully signed (if the student is a minor it means both the student and the parent/guardian will need to have signed the digital packet).
- Physician's signature for release (on page 3 of medical statement) **ONLY** if one or more answers require a physician signature. **If a signature is needed, it must be signed or co-signed by a DO or MD.**
- Have all digital student materials read and all quizzes completed.
- Upload a head shot picture to your SSI Profile (no sunglasses, hats, or scuba masks) and update your mailing address.
- You will also need a Surface Marker Buoy (**SMB**) during your pool sessions and you can purchase it at UWC before class, or during a break on your first day of class. Only one is required per buddy system, but each diver having their personal one is recommended.

Day 1 – Class & Pool

- Class is from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM* (if the retail floor is closed, find the stairs on the north side of the building. Classrooms are upstairs and will be open for students).
- **Bring a device with your digital materials if possible.**
- **Bring your swimming suit and towel.**

Morning - Classroom Session

Afternoon - Pool Session

Day 2 — Pool & Class

- Class is from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM*
- **Bring a device with your digital materials if possible.**
- **Bring your swimming suit and towel.**

Morning Session - Pool Session – bring your swimming suit and towel

Afternoon Session - Classroom Session

* You will have a lunch break in between sessions that is usually about an hour long. There are several restaurants in the area and you are also welcome to bring lunch and use our hang out area by the classrooms to take your break!

Weekday Course

(Mondays & Wednesdays)

BEFORE class starts please have the following completed:

- DocuSign packet fully signed (if the student is a minor it means both the student and the parent/guardian will need to have signed the digital packet).
- Physician's signature for release (on page 3 of medical statement) **ONLY** if one or more

answers require a physician signature. **If a signature is needed, it must be signed or co-signed by a DO or MD.**

- Have all digital student materials read and all quizzes completed.
- Upload a head shot picture to your SSI Profile (no sunglasses, hats, or scuba masks) and update your mailing address.
- You will also need a Surface Marker Buoy (**SMB**) during your pool sessions and you can purchase it at UWC before class, or during a break on your first day of class. Only one is required per buddy system, but each diver having their personal one is recommended.

Night 1 – Classroom & Pool Bring your swimming suit and towel.

- Class is from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
- **Bring a device with your digital materials if possible.**

Night 2 – Classroom Session

- Class is from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
- **Bring a device with your digital materials if possible.**

Night 3 - Pool Session – bring your swimming suit and towel

- Class is from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Night 4 - Classroom Session

- Class is from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM
- **Bring a device with your digital materials if possible.**

Night 5 - Pool Session – bring your swimming suit and towel

- Class is from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

4. OPEN WATER COURSE ADD-ONS:

The best way to retain your underwater skills is to use them! To give you the chance to get more diving experience sooner than later we have a few additional discounts available only for Open Water students. Please know that those discounts are only available up to the day you return your equipment rental from your certification dives.

Deep Diving - ~~\$231~~ \$175

If you are doing your certification dives at Blue Hole and want to get a certification that will allow you to go to any recreational dive sites without depth restrictions, this add-on is perfect! You can complete all required dives for both your Open Water and Deep certifications during the 3 day weekend.

What's included?

- Deep diving specialty course.
- Digital materials (free for the add-on students).

- Digital certification card.
- 1 extra free pool practice voucher.

Level 2 Special - ~~\$250~~ \$200

We have an on-going bundle for our two most popular specialties: Nitrox and Perfect Buoyancy. As an Open Water student you can get the same bundle for an even better price! That is 20% off!

What's included?

- Enriched Air - Nitrox specialty course.
- Perfect Buoyancy specialty course.
- Digital materials for both courses.
- Digital certification card for both courses.
- Printed certification card for Nitrox (optional).
- 2 extra free pool practice vouchers.

You can register for one of both of these add-ons.

5. ABOUT YOUR OPEN WATER WEEKEND

You can find detailed information on our website at any time (at the bottom of the page look for the tab "forms" and click on "Information on Certification Weekends"). Here are just some summed up topics for your convenience. If you have any questions, please ask our staff!

Items not included in your course fees:

- Rental equipment (see more information below)
- Permit / Park fees (see rates below)
- Hotel (see options below)
- Transportation & meals
- Continued education options

Rental Equipment

- Our staff will take note of your equipment requests during your pool sessions, so we will know what equipment you will need for the Open Water dives.
- The equipment for your trip can be picked up Thursday afternoon if you are going to the Blue Hole, Friday afternoon if you are going to Aurora Reservoir or Wednesday afternoon if you are going to Homestead Crater. Everything checked on your rental form will be put in an equipment bag. You will also be responsible for taking tanks and weights.
- If a friend, spouse, etc. is going with you, and is also a diver who wishes to rent equipment,

they must contact the store staff to reserve equipment A.S.A.P. We cannot guarantee the equipment until after all students' equipment has been packed.

- Rental Equipment **must be returned on Monday following the trip.** If the equipment is not returned by Monday evening, there will be a \$20 per day charge for every day past Monday that the equipment is late.
- Please note on your rental reservation forms, **there will be a cleaning charge and/or a repair charge** for any item of equipment not returned in the same condition it was given to you. Please treat the rental equipment as if it were your own. Many other students will also need to use the same equipment.
- **Rental Fees** are as follows for students (flat rate for the weekend, not a daily rate):
 - Full set of gear: \$125
 - If you have purchased a mask and snorkel from UWC: \$75
 - If you have purchased a mask, snorkel, fins, and boots from UWC: \$50

Park / Permit Fees

- Chatfield Reservoir, SW Denver, CO \$10 per car, per day
- Blue Hole, Santa Rosa, NM \$20 for the weekend

Hotel Options

Blue Hole, Santa Rosa, NM:

- La Quinta Inn * 575-472-7800
- Best Western Adobe Inn 575-472-3446
- Holiday Inn Express 575-472-5411
- Motel 6 575-472-3045
- Super 8 575-472-5388

* This is the hotel where Underwater Connection staff stays at and are recommended for our students. Mention you are part of Underwater Connection's student group and you should be given our negotiated rate of \$68.99 + tax / night. You may, however, stay wherever is most convenient to you.

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Contact us at info@uwcscuba.com or 719-599-3483.