UCSC Scientific Diving Methods and Certification
BIOE 75 Fall 2026
Course Information

This page covers the **Fall 2026** UCSC Scientific Diving class. It lists the requirements, costs, scheduling, and alternatives. This is a three-unit course and the class permission codes will be given out at the first lecture.

Schedule is tentative and subject to change. While technically a "fall quarter" course, it actually starts and ends before the fall academic quarter begins. This is primarily because BIOE75 is a pre-requisite for the EEB field courses that utilize SCUBA (BIOE 161, 159, etc) which are generally offered in the fall and winter quarters. This course will be offered 1 month early to accommodate the BIOE159 Marine Ecology Field Quarter trip to Corsica. The fall course is offered in the condensed format, and meets most days 7am to 5pm. See the attached calendar for approximate dates and times. Students are responsible for providing their own housing for the course.

Applications for the course will be reviewed and spots will be allocated based on the relative need of each student. Priority is given to those that need scientific diving certification to pursue their research or to complete their degree. Typically, faculty and graduate students have highest priority followed by undergraduates and staff. Non-students will only be allowed in the class if there is space and they have enrolled through concurrent enrollment. Applications are available online at (FORM LINK AVAILABLE June 1st, 2026) and are due along with the Equipment List (also available online) or GoDive Equipment Program application by **July 1st, 2026.**

If you have questions, review the website at scientificdiving.ucsc before contacting Dave Benet at benet@ucsc.edu or 831-459-5567.

The Lab fee is normally $440, but may be reduced to $100 for fall 2026, courtesy of the Pearse Fund and EEB. Fees will automatically post to your account once you are enrolled. This fee includes an AAUS scientific diver certification card, individual membership to AAUS and eLearning materials, dive slate, transportation to dive sites, air fills, use of cylinders, sampling gear and GoDive Equipment. An AAUS Nitrox endorsement will be included for anyone that does not already have a Nitrox certification.

Course prerequisites include Advanced and Rescue Diver certifications, copies of your last 12 dive logs, evidence of diving experience within the last 6 months (preferably in temperate ocean conditions), "UCSC scientific diving medical approval", current CPR/AED/First Aid certification, Oxygen Administration certification, evidence of medical insurance that covers diving injuries, DAN membership (insurance highly recommended), and some of your own equipment (details below). You must also pass the water skills evaluations (swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving skills) during the first pool session as well as take the AAUS scientific diver eLearning course and pass the final exam prior to the first day of the course. The scientific diving class will be limited to 12 students due to logistical constraints and to maintain a high-quality training experience.

The Scientific Diving Medical Packet must be completed and approved by the UCSC Student Health Center before the class begins. The process could take up to several months to complete, so get started as soon as possible. You must print the medical packet from the UCSC Diving Safety website before seeing your physician. Physicians may require additional tests and exams so give yourself plenty of time to complete this. Exams may be completed on campus by the Student Health Center, or off-campus by your private physician. If you have your exam done by an off-campus physician, it must be reviewed and approved by a UCSC clinician after being signed by your private physician. Check with the Student Health Center for current costs for exams and/or review. This physical is good for 5 years, under the age of 40.

Equipment: You are highly encouraged to provide all your own equipment for the class. Doing so will allow you to gain as much experience as possible in your own gear throughout the class. Due to the high costs of equipment, the EEB Dept has sets of regulators, BCDs, gauges, dive computers and weight harnesses that are available for you to use during the class only. If you wish to borrow this gear for the course, please submit a GoDive application along with your BIOE75 application (separate) by **July 1st, 2026**. If using your own equipment, your BCD (must have a safety whistle), regulators, dive computer and gauges (compass, pressure gauge, depth gauge or dive computer) must be inspected by the Diving Safety Program prior to use in the class.

We also need to see a copy of your dive computer manual. Gear must be turned in for inspection by **August 1st, 2026.** Contact Luis Hernandez at hernandez@ucsc.edu to make arrangements to drop off your gear. Gear must be in a clearly labeled (name and email) bag or bin and dropped off to Luis in the Ocean Health Building (OHB), M-F, 9a-4p. Cylinders will be provided by us for the duration of the class. Even if applying for GoDive Equipment, you are responsible for providing the following equipment by the first day of the class: thermal protection appropriate for 45-50F water, a webbing weight belt (for pool work), mask, snorkel, gloves, booties, fins, cutting device, dive light, save-a-dive kit, gear bin ("Action Packer" recommended), and a large mesh bag to transport and manage gear on small boats. NAUI 2019 dive tables will be supplied for use on class dives. See Rodale's Scuba Diving web page for suggestions on gear: http://www.scubadiving.com as well as our suggestions listed on the DSP website (Equipment Hints).

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Pool Sessions

There will be 6 pool sessions during the quarter, see the calendar for specific dates. You must attend all pool sessions to be considered for the class. The first pool sessions will be dedicated to water skills evaluations and gear familiarization. Pool tests will include but not be limited to:

Swim Skills	Freediving / Snorkeling Skills
450 yard swim under 12 minutes	900 yard skin swim under 20 minutes
Tread water for 10 minutes	Rescue of skin diver
Transport another person 25 yards	50 yards underwater on three breaths*
25 yard swim underwater on one breath*	Weight belt ditch and recovery – 10' depth*
	Skin ditch and recovery – mask, snorkel, fins*

* breath-hold skills to be evaluated later in the course

Scuba Tests

-CESA (25 yd horizontal)
-U/W gear exchange with buddy
-Complete scuba rescue
-Alternate air source (octopus) 25 yd without mask as donor and recipient
-Scuba Ditch and Recovery
-Bailout (enter water with all gear in hand, turn on air and put on all gear)
-BC oral inflate, remove and replace power inflator

All water skills must be passed to continue in this course. It is recommended that you practice these skills before the course begins.

Ocean Sessions

There will be full day, local ocean sessions during the quarter. And at the end of the quarter there will be the field practical portion of the course (see calendar for dive dates).

Lectures

All lectures will be held in OHB 118 (see the calendar for dates).

Texts

The primary source of information will be the online AAUS scientific diving course.

Other Training Opportunities

Moss Landing Marine Labs: contact Diana Steller at diana.steller@sjsu.edu

Stanford Hopkins Marine Station: contact Adam Wendt at afwendt@stanford.edu