

## Summary of PADI Specialty Diver Courses

See instructor guides for complete standards.

| Specialty Course                         | Min. Age | Prerequisite Certification     | Water Training                                  | Ratio        | Min. Instructor Rating                            | Rec. Hours        |
|--|----------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Adaptive Support Diver                   | 15       | Open Water Diver or Freediver  | 1 confined water<br>1 open water workshop       | 9:1<br>6:1   | Adaptive Techniques Specialty Instructor          | 10                |
| Adaptive Techniques                      | 18       | Divemaster or Master Freediver | 2 confined water<br>2 open water workshops      | 9:1<br>6:1   | Adaptive Techniques Specialty Instructor          | 16                |
| Altitude Diver                           | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1†         | Altitude Specialty Instructor                     | 12                |
| AWARE – Dive Against Debris®             | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 1 open water dive                               | 8:1          | AWARE – Dive Against Debris® Specialty Instructor | 8                 |
| AWARE – Shark Conservation Diver         | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1          | AWARE – Shark Conservation Specialty Instructor   | 12                |
| Boat Diver                               | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1†         | Boat Specialty Instructor                         | 12                |
| Cavern Diver                             | 18       | Advanced Open Water Diver      | 4 open water dives                              | 8:1<br>3:1** | Cavern Specialty Instructor                       | 24                |
| Coral Reef Conservation                  | —        | —                              | —   | —            | Assistant Instructor                              | 4                 |
| Deep Diver                               | 15       | Adventure Diver                | 4 open water dives                              | 8:1          | Deep Specialty Instructor                         | 24                |
| Delayed Surface Marker Buoy (DSMB) Diver | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1          | DSMB Specialty Instructor                         | 12                |
| Digital Underwater Photographer          | —<br>10  | —<br>(Junior) Open Water Diver | 1 or 2 snorkel dives<br>1 or 2 open water dives | —<br>8:1†    | Digital Underwater Photo Specialty Instructor     | 12                |
| Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) Diver     | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1          | DPV Specialty Instructor                          | 12                |
| Drift Diver                              | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1          | Drift Specialty Instructor                        | 12                |
| Dry Suit Diver                           | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 1 confined water<br>2 open water dives          | 6:1†         | Dry Suit Specialty Instructor                     | 12                |
| Enriched Air Diver                       | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives (optional)                   | 8:1          | Enriched Air Specialty Instructor                 | 6 / 18 with dives |
| Emergency Oxygen Provider                | —        | —                              | —   | 12:1         | Emergency Oxygen Provider Specialty Instructor    | 3                 |
| Equipment Specialist                     | 10       | PADI (Junior) Scuba Diver      | —   | —            | Equipment Specialty Instructor                    | 6                 |
| Fish Identification Diver                | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 2 open water dives                              | 8:1†         | Fish Identification Specialty Instructor          | 12                |
| Full Face Mask Diver                     | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver      | 1 confined water<br>2 open water dives          | 8:1          | Full Face Mask Specialty Instructor               | 15                |
| Ice Diver                                | 18       | Advanced Open Water Diver      | 3 open water dives                              | 2:1          | Ice Specialty Instructor                          | 24                |

Continued on next page

## Summary of PADI Specialty Diver Courses (continued)

| Specialty Course                               | Min. Age | Prerequisite Certification                         | Water Training     | Ratio        | Min. Instructor Rating                                  | Rec. Hours |
|--|----------|--|--------------------|--------------|---|------------|
| Night Diver                                    | 12       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 3 open water dives | 8:1          | Night Specialty Instructor                              | 12         |
| Peak Performance Buoyancy                      | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 2 open water dives | 8:1†         | Assistant Instructor                                    | 12         |
| PADI AWARE Specialist                          | —        | —  | —                  | —            | Assistant Instructor or PADI AWARE Specialty Instructor | 4          |
| Search & Recovery Diver                        | 12       | (Junior) Advanced Open Water Diver+                | 4 open water dives | 8:1          | Search & Recovery Specialty Instructor                  | 24         |
| Self-Reliant Diver                             | 18       | Advanced Open Water Diver                          | 3 open water dives | 8:1          | Self-Reliant Specialty Instructor                       | 24         |
| Semiclosed Rebreather Diver (Dolphin/Atlantis) | 15       | Advanced Open Water Diver++ and Enriched Air Diver | 3 open water dives | 6:1          | Semiclosed Rebreather Specialty Instructor              | 24         |
| Sidemount Diver                                | 15       | Open Water Diver                                   | 3 open water dives | 8:1          | Sidemount Specialty Instructor                          | 12         |
| Underwater Naturalist                          | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 2 open water dives | 8:1†         | Underwater Naturalist Specialty Instructor              | 12         |
| Underwater Navigator                           | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 3 open water dives | 8:1†         | Underwater Navigation Specialty Instructor              | 12         |
| Underwater Photographer                        | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 2 open water dives | 8:1†         | Underwater Photography Specialty Instructor             | 12         |
| Underwater Videographer                        | 10       | (Junior) Open Water Diver                          | 3 open water dives | 8:1†         | Underwater Videography Specialty Instructor             | 12         |
| Wreck Diver                                    | 15       | Adventure Diver                                    | 4 open water dives | 8:1<br>2:1** | Wreck Specialty Instructor                              | 24         |

**Note: Ratios apply to favorable conditions only.** Rough, turbid, very cold water or other circumstances may warrant reduced ratios for student safety. (See Ratios – Student Diver-to-Instructor in this guide.)

† 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

\*\* Ratio for cavern/wreck penetrations

+ Junior Open Water and Open Water Divers with a PADI Underwater Navigator certification also qualify

++ Open Water Diver with 10 logged dives also qualifies

## Summary of PADI Public Safety Diver Courses

See instructor guides for complete standards.

| Course                       | Min. Age | Prerequisite Certification           | Water Training             | Ratio | Min. Instructor Rating                  | Rec. Hours |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---|------------|
| Public Safety Diver          | 18       | Rescue Diver*                        | 4 open water dives         | 8:1   | Public Safety Diver Instructor          | 30         |
| Surface Support Specialist   | 18       | EFR provider-level training**        | 4 surface support sessions | 8:1   | Public Safety Diver Instructor          | 30         |
| Advanced Public Safety Diver | 18       | Public Safety Diver and Rescue Diver | 6 open water dives         | 8:1   | Advanced Public Safety Diver Instructor | 36         |

\* Or enrolled in a PADI Rescue Diver course

\*\* Or enrolled in an EFR Primary and Secondary Care course