

Syllabus
SMS 124 001, Basic Scuba

Course Information	
Classification	Basic Scuba Course Section 001; School of Marine Sciences <i>1 credit, P/F, certain course fees apply as listed below</i>
Description/ Objectives	<p>This course will provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct themselves with competence while using self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA). Training will be conducted under the minimum standards of both the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) and applicable recreational training agencies. Basic diver certification is a prerequisite to begin training as a scientific diver and utilize diving to pursue educational or career goals in the underwater sciences.</p> <p>Practical diving activities will be a large focus of the course. The course will be taught by the UMaine Diving Safety Officer and/or other qualified Instructors/Assistants as applicable. Following successful completion, students will receive a basic diver certification from an internationally recognized agency. Participation is not a guarantee of certification.</p>
Schedule/ Locations	<p><u>Academic/Pool Sessions (2025):</u> Wednesday Afternoons, starting January 22, 2025; 12:00 pm- 4:00 pm Exact Dates: January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26,</p> <p>Bowdoin College LeRoy Greason Swimming Pool, Athletic Complex Brunswick, ME 04011</p> <p><u>Practical/Field Sessions (2025):</u> PLEASE SELECT A SECTION: Email Colby with which week you choose to attend for the practical session. If you do not, you will be assigned a week. Only 8 people total allowed in each session. Must know by April 30, 2025.</p> <p>Session 001 Monday-Thursday May 19- 22 All day (10:00 am- 8:00 pm) **Tides are later in the day this week. Please plan for a late morning start which will lead to us ending later in the day. **</p> <p>Session 002 Monday May 26 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm Tuesday-Friday May 27- 30 All day (8:00 am- 6:00 pm)</p> <p>UMaine Darling Marine Center 193 Clark's Cove Road, Walpole, ME 04573 **Weather, tides, or other environmental factors may require changes to the field schedule.</p>
Registration & Fees	<p>Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Interested participants must complete the necessary documents and forms as described in the course Registration Letter. Space is limited to 8 students; preference will be given to students who also intend to register for SMS324-<i>Introduction to Research Diving</i>. If more than 8 students successfully register, a waiting list will be generated in the order registration requests are received.</p> <p><u>Course Fee</u> (\$850): Covers the cost of academic, pool, and field sessions, including any/all equipment provided by or rented from UMaine. Course fee is due no later than "Last Day to Drop Classes". Submit payment to The School of Marine Sciences, 360 Aubert Hall.</p> <p><u>Lodging</u> (~\$400): Covers the cost of lodging and meal-plan at the Darling Marine Center for the duration of the practical/field sessions. Basic Scuba is a Residential Program; all participating students are <u>required</u> to stay on-campus at the DMC. This structure allows for potentially long field days and schedule changes. Exact cost to be determined; billed by/paid to DMC, payment due by "Last Day of Classes" for Spring Term.</p>
Course Requirements	
Prerequisites	<p>Each student <u>must</u> complete/show proof of the following prior to beginning the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicable Medical and Legal Documentation ● UMaine Diver's Physical Examination (<i>only if enrolled as an aspect of employment, or to meet scientific objectives</i>)
Swim-Test	<p>This course is not designed to teach basic swimming skills; students <u>must be proficient swimmers</u> and demonstrate general watermanship abilities acceptable to the instructor prior to engaging in any in-water training. Prior to practical/field sessions, students must demonstrate specific watermanship skills, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swim underwater 25 meters/yards without surfacing. ● Swim 400 meters/yards in less than 10 minutes. ● Tread water for 15 minutes (last 2 minutes without the use of hands). ● Snorkel with fins 800 meters/yards in less than 17 minutes.

Attendance	Participation in all class sessions is mandatory; absence or inability to participate will likely disqualify the student from certification. Make-up sessions will be scheduled at the discretion of the instructor.
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Course Materials	
Academic Materials	<p><u>Required:</u> Open Water Diver Training Materials (training agency PADI). Provided upon payment of course fee.</p> <p><u>Recommended:</u> "Marine Life of the North Atlantic", A. Martinez, DownEast Books, 1994</p>
Equipment	<p><u>Personal/ Student Provided:</u> Student divers will be required to provide the personal equipment listed below. All equipment must be appropriate for the cold-water diving environment and conform to the minimum standards of the AAUS and UMaine Scientific Diving Program</p> <p>Minimum equipment required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask, Fins, Snorkel (simple j-tube snorkel recommended) ● Exposure Suit (7mm wetsuit at minimum; 2-piece/farmer john style recommended) ● Hood, Gloves, and Boots (7mm recommended, 5mm gloves acceptable) ● Diver's tool/ Knife ● Underwater Watch (simple \$25-40 Timex, Casio, Freestyle recommended) ● Equipment Bag ● Swimsuit & Towel <p><u>University Provided:</u> UMaine will provide all students with the equipment listed below for both confined and open water sections of the course. Students who wish to purchase/use their own equipment may do so at their discretion, however, all equipment must be adequate and appropriate for the diving environment and when indicated (*) must be accompanied by proof of annual service.</p> <p>Provided equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scuba Regulator (w/ Alt. Air source, Low Pressure Inflator hose, Pressure Gauge, Depth Gauge, Compass) (*) ● Diving Computer (*) ● Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) ● Weight System and Weights ● Scuba Cylinder and Breathing Air (*)

Instructor Information
<p>Colby Johns, UMaine Diving Operations Manager/ Diving Safety Officer Email: colby.johns@maine.edu Web: http://www.umaine.edu/scientificdiving Phone: 860-377-3020 Office Hours: 8-4 weekdays</p> <p>Colby is a graduate of the UMaine School of Marine Sciences (B.S., 2016). She was certified as an Open Water Diver at UMaine in 2015 and earned her UMaine/AAUS Scientific Diver certification soon after. Colby served as the UMaine Scientific Diving intern and was certified as a PADI Divemaster in 2016, less than a year after her initial certification. She is a qualified drysuit and nitrox diver and has served as the UMaine Scientific Diving Assistant since 2017. In 2019, she became a DAN instructor and not long after that, in 2020, she obtained her Open Water Scuba Instructor certification which then allowed her to become an AAUS Scientific Diving Instructor. Since then, she has been the primary Instructor for the basic scuba and runs the field portion of the SMS324 Scientific diving class until her most recent roll change to Diving Safety Officer in January of 2024.</p>

