

Expectations to Graduate

My goal is that all students that graduate any of my courses can safely execute dives within the limits of their training. Although there are "minimum standards" that will be required by the certification agencies, I have certain expectations of the skills and abilities that my students can demonstrate that are not necessarily listed in the "minimum standards."

1. Proper mindset. Students must demonstrate a safe and mature attitude as well as good judgment and problem-solving ability. Examples include creating safe and prudent dive plans within the limits of time/depth/exposure, properly analyzing and marking their gases, and having properly functioning and maintained equipment. While there is definitely a physical component to technical and cave diving, a proper mindset is the most important thing and divers that lack judgment, are unable to adequately solve simple problems on the fly, or are otherwise unsafe, will not pass my class.
2. Good buoyancy and trim. This means being able to perform all skills within a 3' range (1.5' up, 1.5' down) from the target depth while also maintaining trim within 20° of horizontal. The reason for this is multi-fold; divers that are unable to maintain buoyancy may potentially hurt themselves by violating a decompression stop or dropping below the MOD of a gas. They may also potentially damage the cave environment by bumping into the ceiling or wallowing in the floor. Divers that have poor trim will be less streamlined, thus working harder, and they may also potentially cause a silt-out from prop-wash from their fins. It will be expected that to graduate from a class, you should be able to perform an S-drill neutrally buoyant and within trim.
3. Comfort and familiarity with their equipment. Under stressful situations, such as in an emergency, a diver must be able to manage their equipment, manage stress, and manage their physical condition. They should have muscle memory for where each piece of equipment is, what it's purpose is, and how to use it. A diver that has to think about where a piece of equipment is, or how to use the equipment, is expending valuable "mental bandwidth" that could detract from their ability to manage a stressful situation.
4. Ability to manage valves. This means the ability to do a valve drill, efficiently and comfortably. The reason for this is that if there is a failure during a dive, such as a free-flowing regulator, ruptured hose, etc, you should be able to manage the problem.

Payment & Confirmation

Fees are based on completing the course in the minimum number of days. Signing up for a course does not guarantee certification within the minimum number of days and unfortunately, some divers may need an extra day or two to complete a course and those extra days are billed at my daily rate. In some cases, you may be asked to come back after a period of self-study/self-practice to complete a course, but we will work out a self-study routine for you to help you achieve success.

Details: I hate having to say this, but a 50% deposit is due upon scheduling a course with full payment due by the beginning of the course. The deposit is refundable up to 30 days prior to the start of the course. Fees are for instruction only, and do not include certification processing fees (if earned), your fills, your entrance fees, or your books. Trimix courses will have an additional charge for helium. Divers that need additional days of training beyond the agency minimums, will be responsible for paying the daily standard rate.

I am available and encourage my students to contact me after training for any questions they may have regarding diving or dive planning.

Student Statement: I have read the above document and understand the expectations that will be made of me as outlined above. Additionally, I understand that I am only paying for training and signing up for a course does not guarantee I will be certified.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____