

# UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual

## Chapter 290, Health and Safety Services

### Section 80, Diving Safety Program

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Responsible Department: Bodega Marine Laboratory

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#### I. Purpose

The Diving Safety Program assures that research divers and research divers-in-training (DIT) follow the appropriate procedures to minimize accidental injury and occupational illness among University divers and to allow reciprocity between campuses engaged in scientific diving.

#### II. Policy

- A. All University students, employees, visiting researchers, and volunteers who participate in University-affiliated scientific diving projects must be authorized as research divers, regardless of dive location. All divers-in-training must meet the requirement for enrollment in diving courses as described in the [UC Davis Diving Safety Manual](#).
- B. The UC Davis Diving Safety Officer (DSO) is responsible, through the Diving Control Board (DCB) and the Director, Bodega Marine Laboratory (BML), to the Vice Chancellor--Research for the conduct of the scientific diving and diver training programs.
  1. The DSO has operational authority for these programs, including making recommendations to the DCB, conducting training and certification, approving dive plans, maintaining program records, and publishing, and ensuring compliance with the [Diving Safety Manual](#).
  2. The DSO has the authority to restrict or suspend any diver or diving activity that they judge to be unsafe, imprudent, or otherwise in violation of the [Diving Safety Manual](#). The DSO will immediately inform the DCB in writing of the reason for and the nature and duration of any such actions.
- C. The DCB reports to the Vice Chancellor--Research through the Director--Bodega Marine Laboratory.
  1. The DCB has sole authority to issue or reissue research diving authorizations and to revoke authorization of a diver or project found to be in violation of the [Diving Safety Manual](#) or otherwise behaving in a way that constitutes a hazard to any personnel.
  2. The DCB reviews and approves, or revokes approval of, all compressed gas diving operations conducted under UC Davis auspices regardless of dive location.
  3. The DCB acts as the official representative of UC Davis in matters concerning its diving program.
- D. Research-certified divers from one campus are normally granted reciprocal diving privileges on university or other American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) organizational member campuses or institutions.
  1. Scuba equipment approved for use by one campus is normally accepted at other campuses or AAUS member institutions.
  2. Where there are exceptions, the diver will comply with the host institution's requirements. UC Davis will not grant reciprocity for open water diving until the diver's training and competence have been verified and approved by the DCB.
  3. The approval process requires open water checkout dives, submission of documentation

of training and diving experience, and/or written examination.

**III. Further Information**

For further information contact the Diving Safety Officer, (707) 875-2032, or [Bodega Marine Laboratory](#), (707) 875-2211.