

Scientific Diving; MBI 220

Spring 2027

Fees: \$600 This covers: pool work, tanks, lodging, lab use, and food during spring break

*This does not cover: gear (other than tanks), transportation to the lab, medical physical, CPR, First Aid, O2 certifications.

Instructor: Brenda Konar

bhkonar@alaska.edu office phone: 474-5028; cell: 388-6745

Office hours – 11-12 on Mondays or email for appointment. We can also zoom.

Scientific Diving Web Site: <https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/research/scientific-diving/index.php>

TA: Chelsea Campbell

Cmcampbell10@alaska.edu cell : 907-205-1353

Classes will be held at either UAF or Patty Pool. See schedule for times and locations

UAF: Arctic Health & Research Bldg 1W09, unless otherwise specified

Patty Pool: bring: lock, swim suit, towel & any personal dive gear. You may wear a surf suit if you have one.

This course also contains multiple on-line learning modules and exam.

Learning Objectives: This course will 1) train students to use scuba as a research tool, 2) assist students to become proficient in cold water diving techniques, 3) allow students to become eligible to join the UA diving program, and 4) assist current AAUS students to remain active in the UA dive program.

Course Description: Completion of this course will allow students to be eligible to join (or remain active in) the UA dive program. This will allow students to dive on UA sanctioned diving projects and have reciprocity to dive with other universities and government agencies. The course will introduce and familiarize students to SCUBA diving techniques commonly used in the research community and will review basic scuba diving concepts. The course also will familiarize students with local Alaska subtidal flora and fauna and give students an opportunity to work underwater.

We will spend several weeks in Fairbanks doing the on-line training, learning more about the UA program, mastering pool skills, and passing pool evaluations. We will then spend Spring Break diving at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory. **The field trip is mandatory.** However, if you are not feeling well, please stay home until you are feeling better. Once at the lab, after several check-out dives at the lab for specific skills and completing mock “at sea” rescues, the students will assist with diving projects being conducted by the Field Topics students and assist in a sea star survey.

This course also can certify students with a Dry Suit, Rescue, Search & Recovery, Navigation, Night, Boat, Full Face Mask, Research, or other SSI/PADI specialties for an additional fee. Please let us know in the first week if you want to do any of these.

Prerequisites: This course is open to both undergraduates and graduates and can be retaken for credit.

-An Open Water SCUBA certification is required.

-Current CPR and First Aid certifications also are required. If a student does not have this certification, then a class may be taken through the UA Dive program at an additional fee.

-A current Emergency Oxygen Administration certification is also required. If a student does not have this certification, then a class may be taken through the UA Dive program at an additional fee.

-A SCUBA medical physical also is required. If a student does not have a current AAUS sanctioned physical, the health center offers most of the required tests; however, some may need to be done at other locations. Students are responsible for the cost of the SCUBA physical.

Grading: Pass/Fail. A pass will result after the successful completion of the on-line training, and all pool and open ocean skills. The AAUS final exam also must have a passing score. Also, current CPR, First Aid and Emergency Oxygen Administration certifications and medical physical are required before a Pass will be given. **These certifications must be completed one week prior to spring break.**

NOTES:

-No incompletes will be given for this course since it involves a field trip.

-If a student cannot complete the swimming requirements at the first pool session, they will need to drop the course or get a faculty-initiated drop (does not appear on your transcript).

-If a student cannot *satisfactorily* complete the scuba pool-check outs during the pool sessions, they will get a faculty-initiated withdrawal (W – this appears on your transcript) from the course (possibly with no refund). All skills must be completed at a proficient level (i.e., students do not "bolt" for the surface during a skill). If a student "bolts" to the surface while attempting to complete a skill 3 times, they will get a faculty-initiated withdrawal (W – this appears on your transcript) from the course (possibly with no refund).

-If a student misses the class orientation on the first day without previous arrangement, they will get a faculty-initiated drop (does not appear on your transcript) from the class (unless prior arrangements have been made).

-Note: Jan 22 is the last day for 100% refund of tuition and fees

-If you are not a US citizen, there is a bit of paperwork that must be completed 45 days before the field trip. Please see the instructor about this asap.

Course readings/materials: All students must be familiar with the Scientific Diving Manual:

<https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/files/research/scientific-diving/UA-diving-standards-manual-2019-02.pdf>

Students will be registered for on-line AAUS modules, which must be completed one week before spring break.

Organism keys and field guides will be provided while at the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory.

-DIVE GEAR: student must make appt with Test the Waters to get fitted for and check out dive gear. Students are responsible for gear pick-up and return and must transport their gear for the field trip (including weights).

Course policies: Attendance is expected unless there is a good reason for the absence (illness or research-related travel). Students must contact the instructor prior to a planned absence.

The class is a field course. Facilities at the lab are disability accessible. However, SCUBA diving excursions are required.

SCHEDULE:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC
1/13	830am	(class)	Orientation, paperwork, requirements
1/20	830am	(pool)	Swim evaluation (no scuba), drysuit orientation
1/27	830am	(pool)	AAUS skills
2/3	830am	(pool)	AAUS skills/drysuit
2/10	830am	(pool)	Rescue overview and practice in-water rescue
2/17	830am	(pool)	complete pool work if needed
2/24	830am	(class)	lecture: AAUS regulations
3/3	830am	(class)	First Aid/O2/Emergency Oxygen (approx. \$40)
Mar 6-14			SPRING BREAK at KASITSNA BAY LABORATORY During this time the following will be completed: Open water, drysuit, compass, and rescue (beach and boat) drills Assist with class projects Seastar transects Introduction to local flora and fauna Boat dive *There may also be fun slide shows by various people

Student protections statement: UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the

resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site:

<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

Disability services statement: I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

ASUAF advocacy statement: The Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the student government of UAF, offers advocacy services to students who feel they are facing issues with staff, faculty, and/or other students specifically if these issues are hindering the ability of the student to succeed in their academics or go about their lives at the university. Students who wish to utilize these services can contact the Student Advocacy Director by visiting the ASUAF office or emailing asuaf.office@alaska.edu.

Student Academic Support:

- Communication Center (907-474-7007, uaf-commcenter@alaska.edu, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library)
- UAF Math Services (907-474-7332, uaf-traccloud@alaska.edu)

Drop-in tutoring, Student Success Center, 6th Floor Room 677 Rasmuson Library)

1:1 tutoring (by appointment only), Chapman 210

Online tutoring (by appointment only) available

<https://www.uaf.edu/dms/mathlab/>, available at the Student Success Center

- Developmental Math Lab (Gruening 406, <https://www.uaf.edu/deved/math/>)
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List <https://www.uaf.edu/advising/students/index.php>

Student Resources:

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, 110 Eielson Building)
- Student Health & Counseling [free counseling sessions available] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Whitaker Building 2nd floor)
- Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability (907-474-7300, uaf-orca@alaska.edu, 3rd Floor, Constitution Hall)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, asuaf.office@alaska.edu, Wood Center 119)

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For more information, contact:

UAF Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability
1692 Tok Lane

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uaf-orca@alaska.edu