

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/RSMAS
SCIENTIFIC DIVING PROGRAM**

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Name

Standard: All areas of evaluation of this course are based on the question: "Will this person make a safe and reliable diver?"

Evaluation: You will be required to learn and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the UM Diving Safety Officer, through written examination and physical performance, the following:

1. Applied Sciences: Physics, physiology, and medical aspects of diving.
2. Diving Equipment: Knowledge of purposes, features, types and use of skin and scuba diving gear.
3. Diving Safety: Basic skill level of lifesaving, first aid, CPR and Diving Accident Management.
4. Diving Environment: Basic knowledge of physical and biological aspects, with emphasis on southeast Florida.
5. Safe Diving Skills: Competent knowledge and performance of skin and scuba diving, surface and underwater.

Authorization: You are not assured of authorization to dive for UM/RSMAS merely by attending the course, or even by completing and passing all of the areas of evaluation. The UM Diving Safety Officer will make a subjective decision at the end of the course, based on your total performance and attitude regarding safety. Possible initial authorizations are:

1. Diver-In-Training: Limited to a max depth of 30 feet and/or other restrictions as determined by the dive officer.
2. Research Diver – A or I: With a 30 ft. depth rating, but allowed to dive to 60 ft max with a B, C, or D rated diver.
3. Research Diver - B: With a 60 ft depth rating, but allowed to dive to 100 ft with a C or D rated diver.
4. Requires additional training, as determined by the dive officer.
5. Rejection for diving authorization.

Responsibilities:

1. For your own safety and others around you.
2. To UM/RSMAS for lost and/or damaged gear.
3. For your own gear and personal effects.
4. To be on time for all training sessions.
5. Pay fees on a timely basis.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on the written final exam, pool performance, open water performance, and your attitude toward safe diving practices.

(Candidate Signature)

(Date)

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

(cont.)

Name _____

1. Skin, scuba, and surface-supplied diving are physical activities involving heavy exertion. A diver must be in good general health, free from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and have good exercise tolerance. Even momentary loss of consciousness underwater may be fatal.
2. While swimming or using skin, scuba, or surface-supplied diving equipment, the body is subject to a variety of influences that may become potentially hazardous. Some of these hazards include drowning, ruptured eardrums or sinuses, air/gas embolism, decompression sickness, and a variety of other barotraumas (pressure related injuries).
3. There are organisms in the water that may bite, sting, claw, or inject substances in the body.
4. There are other water related problems that include reduced visibility, rough water, strong currents, and cold temperature.
5. When diving from a boat a person may be subjected to bodily injury from carelessness due to activity, or related to equipment handling, or just from being present on a boat at sea.
6. The individual diver must realize that he/she is ultimately responsible for his/her own safety. It is clearly the diver's responsibility to refuse to dive if, in his/her judgment, conditions are unsafe.
7. The diver agrees to abide by all safety guidelines and policies learned in the RSMAS dive course.

Statement: I am in good physical and mental health and free from cardiovascular, respiratory, or other diseases or ailments, which could endanger me while diving. I hereby voluntarily exempt and release Rick Riera-Gomez, the UM Diving Control Board, and the University of Miami, it's Trustees, officers, and employees from liability for personal injury, property damage, or death arising from diving instruction, diving activities or any activities incidental to diving operations.

(Candidate Signature)

(Date)