

# 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 diving safety officer, through written examination and physical performance, the following:

1. Applied Sciences: Physics, physiology, dive planning, medical aspects of diving, etc.
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 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. Scientific Diver 30ft: Authorized to dive up to 30ft as Lead Diver (if diver has at least 50 dives) and allowed to dive to 60ft maximum with a diver authorized to a depth of 60ft or more.
3. Scientific Diver 60ft: Authorized to dive up to 60ft as Lead Diver (if diver has at least 50 dives) and allowed to dive to 100ft maximum with a diver authorized to a depth of 100ft or more.
4. Requires additional training, as determined by the dive officer.
5. Rejection for diving authorization.

Responsibilities: You are responsible for the following:

1. Your own safety and others around you.
2. UM/RSMAS equipment – it is your responsibility to replace anything lost or damaged.
3. Your own gear and personal effects.
4. Be on time for all training sessions.

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

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(Candidate Signature)

(Date)

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING (cont.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Throughout all diving, dive training, and other operations as part of the UM scientific diving program...

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 barotrauma (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 put in place by the University of Miami diving safety program and Diving Safety Manual.
8. Due to the physical nature of diving, dive training, and related activities, physical contact is common. Instructors may need to make physical contact in order to correct diving technique or otherwise provide instruction. By signing below, the signatory understands that at times, for proper instruction and safety, physical contact is required and necessary.
9. Divers grant the University of Miami permission to use their likeness in a photograph, video, or other media in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, pamphlets, brochures, presentations, etc. without payment or other consideration.

Statement: I am in good physical and mental health and I am fit to dive. I hereby voluntarily exempt and release Eliseo "Rick" Riera-Gomez, Albert "Robbie" Christian, and the University of Miami, its 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 for the duration of my association with the University of Miami.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Candidate Signature)

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(Date)