



Santa Barbara City College



Marine Diving Technology

Program Handbook

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Santa Barbara City College

MARINE DIVING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Welcome to the Santa Barbara City College Marine Diving Technology Program

Since 1968, the Marine Diving Technology (MDT) Program at Santa Barbara City College has been training commercial divers and marine technicians to the highest industry standards. Many of our graduates have gone on to become some of the most respected and accomplished professionals in the field, and you are now taking the first steps to join their ranks.

The MDT Program demands a strong balance of academic achievement, hands-on technical skills, and personal responsibility. Our most successful students are those who thrive in collaborative, problem-solving environments, enjoy working with their hands, and are eager to work outdoors in challenging marine settings. Your success in this program will be directly tied to your dedication, work ethic, and engagement in all aspects of training.

Upon successful completion, you will earn a certification that meets the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) *Commercial Diver Training – Minimum Standard* (ANSI/ACDE-01-2015). This credential, recognized by the United States Department of Labor, qualifies you to seek employment as a commercial diver within the United States. You will also receive your Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) Entry Level Tender/Diver Certification, which meets the ANSI/ACDE-01-2015 standards and adheres to the ADCI Consensus Standards Edition 6.5.

This handbook outlines the policies and procedures that will support and guide you throughout your time in the MDT Program. All program policies align with those of Santa Barbara City College, as approved by the Board of Trustees.

Syntax

This handbook uses syntax as it pertains to permissive, advisory, and mandatory language. This concept of word usage and intended meaning, which has been adhered to in preparing this handbook, is as follows:

- **"Shall"** has been used only when application of procedure is mandatory.
- **"Should"** has been used only when application of a procedure is recommended.
- **"May"** has been used only when application of a procedure is discretionary.
- **"Will"** has been used only to indicate futurity, never to indicate any degree of requirement for application of procedure

Safety Policy

Commercial diving is not about taking risks, it's about managing them through training, discipline, and adherence to proven safety standards. At Santa Barbara City College's Marine Diving Technology Program, safety is not just a rule, it is a core professional value we expect every student to uphold.

All diving operations conducted under this program are carried out in full compliance with:

- **OSHA Commercial Diving Operations Standards** (29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart T)
- **U.S. Coast Guard regulations** for commercial diving
ANSI/ACDE minimum training standards and other applicable federal, state, and industry requirements
- **ADCI Consensus Standards 6.5**

Safety shall never be compromised for speed, convenience, or production. Every student is personally responsible for maintaining a safe environment both underwater and topside.

Violations of these standards or unsafe conduct that endangers yourself or others will result in immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

All trainees seeking to participate in diving courses must complete, in its ENTIRETY, and submit the SBCC Commercial Diving Physical Exam as required by the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) for both training and subsequent qualification/certification as a Commercial Diver. This requirement is in accordance with:

- **ANSI/ACDE-01-2015 Commercial Diver Training – Minimum Standard**
- **Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) Consensus Standards, Section 6.5**

A trainee must receive clearance to dive from a qualified, licensed physician **prior to the start of training**. The examination must be completed **within one year prior to the student's expected graduation date** to ensure medical clearance covers the entire training period. If the examination is more than one year old before graduation, the student must complete and submit a new **SBCC Commercial Diving Physical Exam** once one year has passed from the original exam date to remain in compliance with program and industry standards.

Instructor Authority and Fitness to Dive

Regardless of a physician's clearance, the final authority for determining a trainee's daily fitness to dive rests solely with the instructor in charge, in accordance with the *United States Coast Guard Commercial Diving Regulations, General Provisions, Subpart B, Section 197.204*¹. If an instructor observes conduct inconsistent with safe diving practices, or behavior suggesting a medical condition that could adversely affect the safety of the student or others, the trainee may be referred to a qualified physician for re-examination.

Following such a referral, the trainee will not be permitted to participate in any diving or hyperbaric activities until they have been medically cleared to do so by the examining physician.

Per U.S. Coast Guard regulations:

"Diving Supervisor means the person having complete responsibility for the safety of a commercial diving operation, including the responsibility for the safety and health of all diving personnel in accordance with this section."¹

¹*U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Coast Guard Commercial Diving Operations, General Provisions, Subpart B, Section 197.204.*

Medical Disqualifications for Diving

I. Physical Health

Commercial diving requires excellent health and fitness. The ADCI Consensus Standards Physical and Medical Requirements list several medical conditions and medications that disqualify candidates from diving. It is essential that students understand and comply with these standards for their safety and that of others. Major disqualifying conditions include, but are not limited to:

- **Cardiovascular Issues:** Significant heart disease, serious arrhythmias, uncontrolled hypertension, or vascular problems can disqualify a diver.
- **Respiratory Diseases:** Chronic lung conditions such as asthma, COPD, cystic lung disease, or history of pneumothorax are disqualifying.
- **Neurological Conditions:** History of seizures (beyond simple febrile seizures), stroke, loss of consciousness, or progressive neurological diseases disqualify candidates.
- **Ear, Nose, and Throat Disorders:** Active or untreated middle ear infections, perforated eardrums, or inability to equalize pressure exclude a diver.
- **Vision and Hearing:** Correctable vision to at least 20/40 is required. Severe hearing loss or balance disorders are disqualifying.
- **Gastrointestinal Conditions:** Active or chronic GI diseases, including ulcers or inflammatory bowel disease, may disqualify.
- **Hernias:** Untreated hernias must be repaired before diving.
- **Endocrine Disorders:** Insulin-dependent diabetes is generally disqualifying; other endocrine disorders require review.
- **Pregnancy:** Diving during pregnancy is strictly prohibited.
- **Musculoskeletal Issues:** Significant impairments or injuries that limit physical ability disqualify candidates.
- **Skin Infections:** Active infections or open wounds pose a risk and disqualify divers.
- **Psychiatric and Substance Abuse:** Chronic psychiatric illness or drug/alcohol abuse disqualify divers.

The full list of disqualifying conditions and medications can be found in section 2.0 Diving Personal Medical and Training Requirements of the ADCI Standards¹. Students must provide accurate medical histories and meet these standards in order to be eligible to participate in the Marine Diving Technology program.

II. Emotional and Psychological Fitness

The nature of commercial diving requires a thorough evaluation of each individual's emotional stability, temperament, and psychological fitness. Certain conditions are disqualifying, including but not limited to:

- Personality disorders, psychosis, emotional instability, immaturity, or antisocial traits
- Past or current symptoms of neuropsychiatric disorders or organic diseases of the nervous system
- Any documented history of epilepsy, head injury with lasting effects, or personality disorder
- Neurotic tendencies or difficulty with emotional adjustment
- Stammering or other speech impediments that may worsen under stress
- Any past psychiatric illness unless determined by the examining physician to be minor, fully resolved, and unlikely to recur
- Any chronic condition requiring continuous medication for control

The examining physician must be familiar with, and experienced in, the physical and psychological requirements of compressed gas diving. Because certain symptoms can be subtle, intermittent, or masked, the **diving instructor retains final authority** to determine a trainee's fitness for participation in all programmatic and hyperbaric activities.

¹ADCI Consensus Standards, International Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving and Underwater Operations, Section 2.4

CONDUCT AND TEAMWORK EXPECTATION

Diving operations require close teamwork, often in confined spaces and under stressful conditions. While tension or disagreement may occur, **any form of violence, physical, verbal, or otherwise, will not be tolerated**. Such behavior constitutes a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct and the temperament requirements of this program, and will result in **immediate dismissal** from the program in addition to any disciplinary action imposed by the college.

The full text of the Standards of Student Conduct is available at:

https://www.sbccc.edu/safety/standards_of_conduct.php

It is also available from the Dean, Educational Programs – Student Support Programs, CC-222.

SWIM EVALUATION

All Students seeking to participate in diving activities are required to attend and pass a swimming skills evaluation typically conducted the week prior to the start of the fall semester. The swim evaluation is conducted only **once per school year**, and retesting is not allowed until the following school year's evaluation. Students who do not pass or complete the swim evaluation will not be allowed to participate in diving activities; they may, at the discretion of the MDT Director, participate in non-diving department course work.

Your swim test skills will be evaluated during **MDT 101, Introduction to Marine Diving Technology**. You must register for this class and have completed and submitted all required documents and credentials, and have been approved for diving as stated on your MDT Commercial Diving Physical Exam, in order to be eligible for the swim test. You will be evaluated on the following skills:

- Swim underwater without fins for a distance of 25 meters without surfacing
- Swim underwater without fins for a distance of 50 meters, surfacing 3 times
- Swim 350 meters in less than 10 minutes without fins
- Demonstrate swimming with snorkel and fins with and without facemask
- Skin-dive to a depth of 3 meters and recover a 4.5 kilogram weight (10 lbs.)
- Demonstrate the ability to rescue a swimmer and carry him/her 25 meters on the surface
- Demonstrate the ability to tread water for 10 minutes without swim aids.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Close toed shoes are required for every class. Steel toe work boots are recommended and will be necessary once in the industry.

Wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty, or have a pair of work clothes or coveralls that you can change into for lab classes.

Bring your equipment to all diving classes, check it for fit and function before you need it, come prepared and ready to learn. Your early and ultimate success as a commercial diver will be influenced by affective skills such as attitude, reliability, dependability, work ethic and performance. Begin cultivating those traits now. Your instructors will not disrupt the class due to your lack of preparation. **Repeated lack of preparation or equipment malfunction shall be cause for dismissal from the program.**

1. SCUBA/Dive Equipment

Students MUST provide the following equipment by the ***first day of MDT 105 Advanced Scuba Techniques*** which is the first in-water class of the Fall semester: The instructor will go over the required equipment following the completion of the swim test.

Dive Gear:

- Full wetsuit (7 mm minimum thickness), including gloves, hood and booties (Highly recommended but not required that the hood is **not** integrated into the suit)
 - Thin wetsuit or rash guard for pool/water tank sessions is recommended but not required. Your 7mm will be sufficient
- SCUBA-grade mask (tempered glass) and snorkel
- Open heel SCUBA fins (**not** long blade freedive fins)
- Adjustable weight belt with vinyl coated lead weights (preferred) or soft pouch weights
 - 20-26 lbs in weights (Make sure to have some smaller weights to make minor adjustments to weight needed)
 - A **weight belt is required**. You may not use integrated weight pouches even if your BC has this feature.
- SCUBA regulator assembly
 - 1st stage (yoke connection is recommended)
 - 2nd stage
 - Submersible Pressure Gauge
 - Octopus 2nd stage and **keeper device** (an Air 2 cannot qualify as your octopus)
- BCD with power inflation

- Depth gauge (can be included in your regulator assembly or in a dive watch)
- Underwater compass
- Diving knife (with some way of attaching it to yourself)
- Underwater slate (with some way of attaching it to yourself, can be wrist mounted or clipped to BCD)
- Dive timing device (This can be a dive computer or submersible watch)
- Gear bag

2. Tools

Students MUST provide the following equipment by the **second week of MDT 141 Commercial Diving Equipment**

Tools:

- 8" Adjustable wrench (Proto or Crescent brand preferred)
- 12" Adjustable wrench (Proto or Crescent brand preferred)
- 8" Double cut half round bastard file. Nicholson is a good brand
- Thin nose slip joint pliers
- 25 watt soldering iron
- 6 way screwdriver or set of standard flathead and Phillips head screwdrivers (non magnetic)
- Wire strippers
- 12' tape measure
- Clear safety glasses, not sunglasses. **Z87 rating or equivalent**
- Pair of flexible work gloves with dexterity in mind (no leather)
- Wrist watch
- Folding knife or your choice
 - Must be 3-4" long
 - Spyderco is the brand most offshore divers use
 - Multi tools like leathermans are acceptable
 - **No switchblades**
- A tool bag or something to put all your tools in, with your name on it.

3. Surface Supplied Diving Gear & Chamber Clothes

Students must provide the following equipment by the **first day of the second MDT Module**, which begins 8 weeks after the start of the fall semester: The Instructor will go over the required equipment several weeks before the items are needed.

- [Head Cushion \(aka “snoopy”\)](#) and [chin cushion](#) for Kirby Morgan Diving Helmets **(MDT 140)**
- 100% cotton or natural fiber shirt, pants, and socks for decompression chambers **(MDT 107)**
- Non synthetic long sleeve shirt and pants for welding **(MDT 112)**

4. Ocean Diving

Students must provide the following equipment by the **first day of MDT 142 Advanced Ocean Diving** which begins in January: The instructor will go over the required equipment several weeks before the items are needed:

- Steel Toe rubber boots for diving
 - Fins are not often worn for commercial diving purposes. Instead, hard soled, steel toe rubber boots are worn as “bottom boots”. These will be required when diving off the wharf in various 2nd semester classes
 - The water in Santa Barbara is chilly so it is recommended to purchase a pair of 3mm-7mm neoprene socks to wear with your bottom boots. Regular, thick socks are acceptable but your feet will get cold. If you are going to wear neoprene socks, make sure you have properly sized boots.
- **Recommended:** Chaffing gear to wear over wetsuit
 - In the commercial diving industry, divers often wear coveralls, overalls, or work pants and a shirt over their wetsuit to protect it from abrasives and damage while working underwater. Students are strongly encouraged to do the same when diving offshore, as an outer layer helps prevent rips and tears to their wetsuits.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

SBCC Campus-Wide Policy:

The SBCC College Student Attendance Policy states: "All students are expected to be punctual and to attend regularly. Students who are not in attendance at the first class meeting are considered "no shows" and the instructor may withdraw such persons. Also, an instructor may withdraw a student at any time for excessive absences."

The full text of this policy can be found in the College Catalog or online at www.sbcc.edu. Additional information regarding SBCC's Attendance policy can be found in [AP 5070](#).

MDT Attendance Policy and Punctuality

The **Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI)** requires a minimum of **625 training hours** to meet the standards for the **Entry Level Tender/Diver certification**. To achieve these hours within the Marine Diving Technology Program's accelerated **8-week schedule**, students must attend **every class**, both lecture and lab. Missing class time not only jeopardizes a student's ability to meet certification requirements but also impacts safety, skill development, and program success. Many of the MDT classes require progressive skill building and are short-term intensive training programs. Therefore, **100% attendance is mandatory in order to meet industry standards**.

In the commercial diving industry, **punctuality is not optional, it is essential**. If you are late, you may miss the boat or the helicopter, and with it, the job. Employers expect you to be ready and on site before the work begins. The same standard applies here: if you cannot consistently arrive on time, this is not the industry for you.

Being late does more than impact your own learning, it wastes your instructor's time and disrupts the training of your classmates. Every student has a responsibility to arrive prepared and ready to participate from the moment class begins. **Cultivating the habit of arriving early is a professional skill that will serve you throughout your career.**

****The policies outlined below are general to the MDT program. In cases where a course syllabus specifies a different, more detailed policy, the syllabus will take precedence.***

I. Class Attendance

1. **Attendance Requirement** – Students are expected to attend **all** lectures and lab classes
2. **Allowable Absence** – Students may miss **one class** without an excuse; however:
 - The student must notify the instructor by email before the start of class.

- The student is responsible for all missed content and assignments.
 - No points will be awarded for the associated lab that day.
3. **Second Absence** – Missing **two classes, no matter the reason**, in a course will result in a **failing grade** for that course unless the student provides documented proof of an extenuating circumstance (e.g., illness, family emergency) that is approved by both the course instructor and the MDT Program Director. Extenuating circumstances will be determined by the instructor and MDT Director.
 4. **Third Absence** – At this point, the student has failed to meet the attendance requirements necessary to progress in the sequential nature of the MDT program. Continued participation is no longer appropriate or safe, as essential instruction and safety briefings have been missed. The student will receive a **failing grade** for the course.
 5. **Planned Absences** – All planned absences must be requested in writing and approved by the course instructor **and** the MDT Program Director at least **one week** in advance.

II. Tardiness

- Students are expected to be **in their seats, ready for lecture** when class begins, and **in the designated lab area with all required tools and PPE** at the scheduled lab start time. Consistent tardiness, **even by one minute**, will result in disciplinary action and may lead to dismissal from the Marine Diving Technology Program.
- The **instructor has final authority** to determine whether a late arrival has missed essential safety information that would make participation in lab unsafe. If so, the student will not be permitted to participate in that day's lab.

Mastery Learning and Leave of Absence Policy

I. Overview

The **Marine Diving Technology (MDT) Program** is based on the principle of *mastery learning*. Each short course (module) includes specific learning objectives for both theory and hands-on practice. Students must demonstrate mastery of each objective before advancing to higher-level skills. Because each stage of training builds on previous competencies, **continuous attendance and engagement are essential for safety and program success.**

II. Industry Certification Requirements

In accordance with **ADCI Consensus Standards (6.5)¹** and **ACDE/ANSI-01-2015²**, an **Entry-Level Diver/Tender certification requires a minimum of 625 contact hours** of structured, supervised training. These hours must be completed as part of a **single, continuous program cycle** to ensure skill recency, operational safety, and compliance with industry standards. Due to the progressive, prerequisite-based nature of the MDT curriculum, any break in attendance risks skill degradation and may impact a student's ability to meet these certification requirements.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in ineligibility for ADCI certification. This time-sensitive standard means the MDT Program requires attendance at all scheduled lectures and labs.

III. Leave of Absence

- **Maximum Duration:** One semester
- **Extended Absences:** Any leave exceeding one semester requires reapplication for admission on a space-available basis.
- **Re-Entry Requirements:**
 - Enroll in **MDT 101**
 - Renew liability waivers, medical history forms, and physical examinations
 - Complete the MDT Commercial Diving Physical exam if more than one year has elapsed
 - Complete a SAMHSA 5-panel drug test at the cost of the student
 - Pass a water skills re-evaluation
 - Repeat prerequisite diving classes to ensure recent knowledge and operational safety

- **Certification Impact:** Any extended leave that prevents completion of the required training hours within 12 months will result in the student being unable to obtain their ADCI Entry-Level Tender/Diver certification.

¹*Association of Diving Contractors International. Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving and Underwater Operations, 6.5 Edition, §5.7.2.*

²*American National Standards Institute / Association of Commercial Diving Educators. Commercial Diver Training Minimum Standard for Entry-Level Diver/Tender, ANSI/ACDE-01-2015, §6.1.1.*

Academic Standing

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout the Marine Diving Technology (MDT) Program. Due to the **progression-linked module system** of the program, many courses serve as prerequisites for subsequent modules. If a student fails a prerequisite course, they will be unable to advance into the next set of classes that require successful completion of that prerequisite. Because MDT courses are only offered once per year, failing a prerequisite course will delay program completion until the following academic year.

Any student who receives a failing grade in **three (3) or more MDT courses within a single semester** will be placed on academic probation and is subject to dismissal from the program.

Re-entry to the MDT Program will only be permitted once the student has met all criteria for return as established by the department. These criteria will be provided in writing and must be fully satisfied and documented before the student may resume participation.

Academic Integrity

The MDT Program encourages a collaborative learning environment, where students are welcome to study together, share resources, and use all available tools to master the program's theory and practical objectives. However, all submitted work and assessments must reflect the student's own knowledge and abilities.

Cheating on examinations, whether by using unauthorized materials, sharing specific questions or answers with other students who have not yet taken the exam, or submitting written work completed by someone else, constitutes academic dishonesty and violates SBCC's Standards for Academic Integrity.

Additional information regarding academic integrity can be found in the *Student Responsibilities* section of the SBCC College Catalog or online at www.sbcc.edu (search "Academic Integrity")

Program Dismissal

If a student is dismissed from the MDT Program, they have the right to **informally appeal** the decision first to the Program Director and, if necessary, to the Dean of Educational Programs.

If the student is dissatisfied with the outcome of the informal appeal, they may proceed with the **formal appeal process**¹ by contacting the Dean of Educational Programs for guidance on the next steps in accordance with SBCC's policies.

¹SBCC Administrative Procedure (AP) 5530 – Student Rights and Grievances. Santa Barbara City College, District Student Services, Chapter 5, Student Services. Available in the Office of the Associate Dean of Educational Programs and Student Affairs and online

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices are **not permitted for use during class or lab sessions**. All devices must be **silenced and stored** prior to the start of lecture or lab.

- **Prohibited Uses:**

- Cell phones may not be used as timekeeping devices, calculators, or reference tools during class or lab.
- The use of phones during instruction or training activities is disruptive, unsafe, and unprofessional.

- **Safety & Professionalism:**

In the Marine Diving Technology program, your focus and attention are critical for safety. Distractions caused by cell phone use can endanger you, your classmates, and your instructors. In the diving industry, inattentiveness can result in missed safety briefings, hazardous mistakes, or failure to follow critical procedures. Treat the classroom and lab as you would a professional worksite, phones away and attention on the task.

- **Emergencies Exceptions:**

If you have an urgent or ongoing personal matter that requires you to take a call or keep your phone accessible, you must notify the instructor before class begins. Approval is at the discretion of the instructor.

If at any point the instructor determines that your phone is creating a distraction or safety concern, they have the right to confiscate the device for the remainder of the lesson period.

- **Contact Information:**

Students are required to keep their contact information **current** at all times. If your phone number changes, you must update it immediately with the MDT office.

- **Consequences:**

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, removal from lab activities for the day, and/or further consequences determined by the instructor and MDT Director

DRESS CODE

It is important to remember that whether on campus or attending labs off campus, students represent the Marine Diving Technology (MDT) Department and Santa Barbara City College. Students are required to dress appropriately in compliance with the following requirements:

- **General Appearance**

- Students may dress to their individual tastes, provided their clothing adheres to safety and professional standards.
- No clothing with offensive or suggestive images or phrases is permitted. Wear comfortable, well-fitting clothing that allows for safe participation in class and lab activities.

- **Footwear**

- **Close-toed shoes are required for every class.**
- In classes that involve welding, burning, and other activities that include heavy equipment and hot work, a form of **work boot is required**
 - **Steel-toe work boots are strongly recommended** and will be required for most positions in the diving industry.
- Sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes are never permitted in the MDT building or any laboratory on or off campus.

- **Work Clothing**

- Wear clothing you do not mind getting dirty, or have a dedicated set of work clothes or coveralls to change into for lab classes.
- Many laboratory tasks involve working with or around power tools—baggy or loose clothing is a safety hazard and is not permitted.
- In the welding shop, clothing should be heavy cotton or leather protective garments. **Do not wear synthetic materials** while welding or cutting, as they can melt or ignite from sparks and heat.

- **Jewelry & Piercings**

- When diving with department-supplied masks and helmets, all earrings (including studs) and facial piercings must be removed for safety.

- **Chamber Operations**

- Students entering the double-lock deck decompression chambers are required to wear clean, natural-fiber (i.e. cotton) clothes and remove their shoes before entry.

- **Weather Considerations**

- Many labs are conducted at the Santa Barbara waterfront pier or offshore on a

diving support vessel. While Santa Barbara is known for mild weather, conditions at these locations can become cold and windy. Students should bring appropriate layers and warm clothing for offshore operations.

MDT FACILITY

Crane and Rigging Operations

During the course of their training, students will operate the facility's overhead crane to practice rigging techniques and move heavy loads throughout the building, on and off trucks, and for launching the diving bell. Crane operations present significant safety risks; improper use can cause severe injury or major equipment damage. The following policies and procedures must be followed at all times:

- **Training & Authorization**

- Do not operate the crane until you have received proper training in its use, controls, and safe working load limitations.
- The crane's **maximum safe working load (SWL) is 15,000 lbs**—never exceed this limit.

- **Safe Operation**

- Remain fully attentive to the crane's position and movement at all times. The operator is solely responsible for safe operation.
- When approaching either end of the building, anticipate the location of the stops and slow movement to avoid collision.
- Never "fly" loads over people or the chambers.
- Never side-load the crane. If the wire ropes jump the drum grooves, immediately lower the load, realign the cables, and notify an instructor for inspection.
- Keep the block clear of the water at all times.
- Do not tie the control console to any object that may move.
- When idle, keep the block overhead, clear of all personnel.
- Do not rig a load with its center of gravity above the pick points.
- Never store the crane beneath the south roll-up door.
- Do not move the crane past the saturation control shack when the southern roll-up door is closed.

- **Rigging Practices**

- Always use proper rigging techniques and observe safe working loads for all gear.

- Students are not permitted to operate the college forklift.
- Do not deploy or recover heavy loads in the diving tanks when a diver is in the water.
- Be aware that loads entering the water will lighten as they submerge, and will increase in weight as they exit and drain, factor this into SWL calculations.

Welding Laboratory

The welding laboratory supports both topside and underwater welding training. It is a high-activity environment with strict safety requirements:

- **Access & PPE**

- Instructor approval is required before entering or using the welding facility.
- Eye protection is mandatory at all times. When grinding or buffing, wear a face shield **in addition** to safety glasses.
- Minimum welding shade lens requirements: Topside SMAW #10, Underwater Wet Welding #8, Oxy/Acetylene #5.

- **Clothing & Safety**

- Wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes to protect against burns and UV radiation.
- Clothing should be heavy cotton or leather for welding; synthetic fabrics are prohibited during welding or cutting operations.
- Never bring cigarette lighters into the MDT building. Sparks can cause them to explode.
- Wear ear plugs during chipping or hammering operations.
- Keep all flammable materials out of the welding booths.

- **Equipment Use**

- Do not remove safety guards from grinders, saws, or other tools.
- Only mild carbon steel may be shaped on grinders—other alloys may release hazardous particles.
- Secure loose clothing when using grinders or buffers. Secure your workpiece to prevent uncontrolled release.
- Do not use electric tools while wet.
- Topside welding tools must remain topside; use the designated underwater welding tools for tank work.

- **General Lab Rules**

- Do not bring personal projects from home; only authorized course materials may be used.
- Never enter the welding lab wet during underwater welding classes.
- Maintain situational awareness—welding areas are compact and may have multiple simultaneous operations.

Diving Operations

Because the underwater environment amplifies risk, even minor lapses in judgment can create life-threatening situations. The following rules are mandatory—**any violation is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program**:

- **Instructor Supervision**

- Diving operations must be conducted under the direct supervision of the instructor. If the instructor must leave, all hyperbaric operations stop immediately.

- **Fitness to Dive**

- Prior to any dive, divers must declare themselves “fit to dive” or “unfit to dive.”
- Divers must disclose any prescription or over-the-counter medications before hyperbaric exposure.

- **Required Equipment & Procedures**

- Only coated or soft-shot weight belts may be used in the pool.
- Bail-out bottles are required for all dives and must be “on at the bottle, off at the hat.” Pressures and contents must be recorded before each dive.
- A sharpened dive knife is required on every dive.
- Non-locking carabiners are prohibited.
- All gear must be inspected prior to water entry by the instructor, student supervisor, dive partner, or tender—this inspection must be logged.
- Water entry/exit is by ladder unless performing a boat dive entry from the vessel’s breast.

- **Operational Safety**

- If communication fails during a surface-supplied dive (outside of a drill), the dive ends immediately.
- Dive logs must be completed for **all** hyperbaric exposures on the same day, signed, and submitted for copying.

- Only SCUBA cylinders with current hydro and visual inspection may be filled; never exceed the manufacturer's pressure rating.
- Mixed gas cylinders must be labeled with contents, mixer's name, initial pressure, date mixed, and re-analyzed before use. In MDT 143 and MDT 154, this information must also be recorded on the dive sheet and in the operations log.

STUDENT RIGHTS

Preamble – Rights and Responsibilities in the MDT Program

In the commercial diving industry, professionalism, safety, and accountability are non-negotiable. Every diver is expected to know their responsibilities, respect the rights of others, and operate within established laws and standards. The same is true in the Marine Diving Technology (MDT) Program. Understanding and exercising your rights as a student is part of becoming a reliable and ethical team member—one who can be trusted on a dive site, in a chamber, or offshore.

Just as divers must know the operational and legal standards that protect them underwater, MDT students must know the SBCC policies that protect their educational experience. These rights are not just protections; they are tools for ensuring a safe, respectful, and equitable learning environment for yourself and your peers.

Non-Discrimination Policy

SBCC is committed to equal opportunity in all aspects of education and employment. No student shall be unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, military or veteran status, or political affiliation.

For more information, visit:

[SBCC Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

All MDT students have the right to learn in an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and intimidation. Any concerns about the safety or respectfulness of the learning environment should be reported immediately to the MDT Program Director or the SBCC Title IX Office.

Title IX Office Contact:

Email: titleix@sbcc.edu

Website: [SBCC Title IX Information](#)

Due Process in Disciplinary Matters

Students have the right to due process when facing disciplinary action. This includes the right to be informed of any allegations, to present evidence in their defense, and to appeal decisions in accordance with SBCC Administrative Procedures.

For more details:

[SBCC AP 5520 – Student Discipline Procedures](#)

Grievance and Complaint Procedures

If you believe you have been treated unfairly or your rights have been violated, you may file a grievance. The process begins at the department level and can escalate to formal channels if needed.

Full grievance procedures are outlined in:

[SBCC AP 5530 – Student Rights and Grievances](#)

Privacy of Student Records

SBCC complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy of student education records. Records will not be disclosed to third parties without the student's written consent, except as permitted by law.

For more information:

[SBCC FERPA Guidelines](#)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities at Santa Barbara City College. If you have or think you might have a disability that impacts your educational experience in this class, contact DSPS to determine your eligibility for accommodations. DSPS can be reached by phone or email. The phone number is 805-730-4164 or send email to dsp@sbcc.edu. If you have already registered with DSPS, please submit your accommodation requests via the 'DSPS Online Services Student Portal' as soon as possible. This needs to be done each semester. If you have any questions or concerns about your accommodations, make an appointment with a DSPS Counselor. Complete this process in a timely manner to allow adequate time to provide accommodations.