

How can you Guarantee Success during the PADI IDC?

The most common question that I receive from Instructor candidates is how do we guarantee success? Well, that is not always an easy question to answer!

What is Success?

Before you can guarantee success it is important to determine what “success” means. To most candidates, success at an IDC means successfully *exceeding* all the performance requirements and then doing the same at the PADI Instructor Examination.

However, for a given individual, it could mean earning a 3.4 on a knowledge development presentation or simply passing the dive theory and standards exams. For some it could even be completing the IDC itself without even going onto the PADI IE. Basically, your goals determine what success means to you.

Instructor Development is about *developing effective dive educators*. True success is determined in the months and years after the IDC and the IE are finished. Completing an IDC and passing an IE are required steps on your way toward teaching new divers how to clear their mask or teaching divers how to penetrate a World War II shipwreck safely.

“Success” is when you- a licensed scuba diving instructor- impart your skills, knowledge and passion to other divers so they can discover the marine world and all its mysteries. It is when you spend that extra time to get a diver through a stressful situation only to see them beam you a huge smile at the end. Success!

It is when you change someone’s life forever just by sharing what you know and love about the underwater world. Success is about taking your passion and making a lifestyle of it. The term “success” to us means developing passionate divers into effective, employable *dive professionals*.

How to Succeed!

Be prepared. An important step toward success as an effective dive educator is having a solid foundation in dive theory. During a Divemaster course you learn most of the dive theory you will use as a PADI Instructor.

You also gain valuable experience assisting on PADI courses- the same courses you will teach after becoming an instructor. The [Divemaster course](#) also pushes you to master the 20 Basic Scuba Skills, the same skills we teach from Open Water up to Divemaster. Notice a trend here?

The more you understand about how an Open Water course is conducted, the easier you will find it when you start your first Open Water course as a PADI Instructor. Being able to manage your time effectively and give your students the time they need to develop is absolutely critical to being a successful, *employable* Scuba Instructor. This is where scuba diving internships excel in that they give you real life experience that is unmatched by practical training exercises alone.

The IDC is about learning how to teach. You should review your Divemaster theory in the days and weeks leading up to your IDC. Any quality-oriented CDC center will run an “IDC-prep” course before each IDC to help you review your diving theory and skills. Think about it this way: you could be certified to train PADI Divemasters a few weeks from now, are you ready for that?

Now What?

Do yourself a big favor and remember two things before your IDC. First, *review your theory*. Second, *choose your training center* based on the completeness of its program- IDC prep, added seminars, length of IDC, IE support, etc... Remember these two things and you have taken your first step toward success!

Getting in the pool to brush up on your dive skills is something you should think about before your IDC. Again, this is something your training center should include in the IDC Prep, but you might as well make things easy for yourself.

If you have the chance, get a fellow candidate to practice with you and evaluate each other. Work on slowing skills down and making them look easy. These skills should be second nature to you and if you can do them all with a smile then you are well on your way to becoming an instructor. Just remember, *slow is good!*

The last things to do before the IDC is go for some fun dives! After all, the reason we are all PADI professionals is because we love diving. Get in the water and have fun. Don't forget why you started diving in the first place.

So now you can move onto your IDC. When you are well prepared for the IDC you will find that the whole process is a fun and rewarding experience.

Candidates who find the IDC stressful are generally the ones who review inadequately or who skip the IDC Prep. Being comfortable with dive theory and dive skills will allow you to focus on the goals of the IDC – *to develop you into an effective [PADI instructor!](#)*

I have a saying that is certainly not original – “you get out of the IDC what you put in”. I will always believe this statement. For example, I have seen candidates struggle to grasp certain concepts but with perseverance, commitment, and some professional guidance; they have all managed to work through it.

On the other hand I see candidates on occasion who are not willing to put that extra effort in. Sure, they can pass an IDC and meet the requirements of an IE, and perhaps that is their definition of success. It is not mine.

These Instructors will generally not succeed in our industry where *quality counts*. Going that extra mile is what is important when looking for success as an active dive Instructor.

If I had to answer the question in just one word – “**preparation**” would be the answer. In order to guarantee your success, be sure to work on your dive theory, basic scuba skills and general dive skills.

Ensure that you are focused on your goal and then most of all; make sure that you *have fun!* Remember, you will never take the IDC again unless it is on your IDC Staff instructor Course, but that is another story...

Jonathan Cross
PADI Course Director 113652
Blue Season Bali