

How to be a good student

At a recent instructors meeting, the topic arose about students being prepared for class. Many instructors noted the burden that unprepared students placed on a class. So here are some tips to follow so you may be a “good student”.

Avoid the unexpected

Know where the training sites are, how to get there, and how long it will take you to drive to them. Account for incidentals like gas in your car and stopping for your morning coffee. Class starts promptly at the time given by your instructor. Being early just makes sense! It gives you time to check out the area and snag the best parking spots. Remember the saying, “If your not 15 minutes early, you’re late!”

Be ready to dive

For entry-level rebreather students, have your gear completely packed and ready to go. Have all of your items tested for proper fit, and function. Don’t wait until the morning of class to find out your mask has a broken frame, or your regulator won’t stop free flowing.

For advanced level students, your rebreather must be ready to dive the moment class begins. Yes, this means showing up the first day of class with your rebreather built, tested and ready to dive. Make sure your bottles are filled and analyzed. Please, this is not a suggestion, it’s a requirement.

TruDive dive planning software is required for all level of classes and must be purchases prior to the start of class. Click [here](#).

Carry spare parts

Rebreather divers at any level of training must be self-sufficient, and self-reliant. Of course new rebreather students are not expected to know how to repair their unit, however to avoid undue delay in the class, all rebreather students must have with them, enough spares to keep their unit operational in the event of a failure. Ask your conceirge what spares you should carry. At minimum, it is recommended all students have the following:

- Spare oxygen cell
- Spare mushroom valves
- Spare o-rings
- Spare batteries for all devices (more than one)
- Spare loop hoses
- Spare 1st and 2nd stage regulators
- Lubricant and disinfectant
- CO2 absorbent

Please remember that the inventory in our warehouse is dynamic. Sometimes repair parts are out of stock, and not immediately available. Expedited shipping from a rebreather manufacturer takes a minimum of 1 business day, and doesn't include weekends. Sometimes the failure will occur on the boat after you've left the dock. Add Helium recommends you order all of your needed parts at least 30 days prior to class.

Be proficient

For advanced students, class time is not the time for experimentation, trying new setups or new equipment. If you are not proficient with it, you may not bring it to class, unless you clear it with your instructor ahead of time. If you bring it to class, it has been properly rigged, weighted, and used underwater by you. This is the best way to ensure you complete your class successfully. Come to Florida early if you need to, and schedule a few dives prior to class to sort your gear out.

Things you may NOT do during a class

- Try new equipment or gear configurations.
- Reconfigure your harnesses
- Learn to dive a drysuit. If you wish to dive a drysuit in class, you must have experience on it.
- Use new computers you have not had time to learn properly
- Try new weighting
- Use an underwater camera of any kind, even a Go-pro.

Why?

Class starts on time, and on-schedule. We are stringent on this rule to be fair to the other students and the instructor. There is a reasonable amount of information that must be conveyed in a short period of time. Unprepared students create a burden on the entire class, so do your best to be proactive and in control.