

Public Safety Diving

Program Highlights

- 140 contact hours
- Courses offered Fall, Summer, and Spring
- First PSD program in Colorado offering college credit
- 8 credit hours may be applied to the Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice or Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Administration/Public Safety as elective credits
- Meets POST requirements for Continuing Education
- Colorado and Utah POST approved
- Basic open water scuba certification
- Dry suit certification
- Full face mask/redundant air source certification
- Training components include classroom, pool and open-body water
- Offers students an opportunity to stay on the cutting edge with crime scene investigations and forensic studies
- Public Safety Diving Phase I course meets the standards for Scientific Diving



Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) is an open admission, comprehensive community college providing higher education instruction for academic transfer programs, career technical programs, and continuing education. WCCC offers a variety of certificate programs that can be completed in nine months, associate degree programs that average two years in length, and many skills courses for career update. Development studies courses are also available in pre-college math, reading, and writing for students preparing to enroll in college-level coursework.

WCCC is committed to student success. Key to the student learning experience is relevant dynamic courses facilitated by effective teaching practices through hands-on instruction. Strong business and industry advisory committees assist WCCC in maintaining high quality programs. WCCC is a branch of Mesa State College and partner to Mesa County Valley School District #51.



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mesastate.edu/wccc

Bo Tibbetts

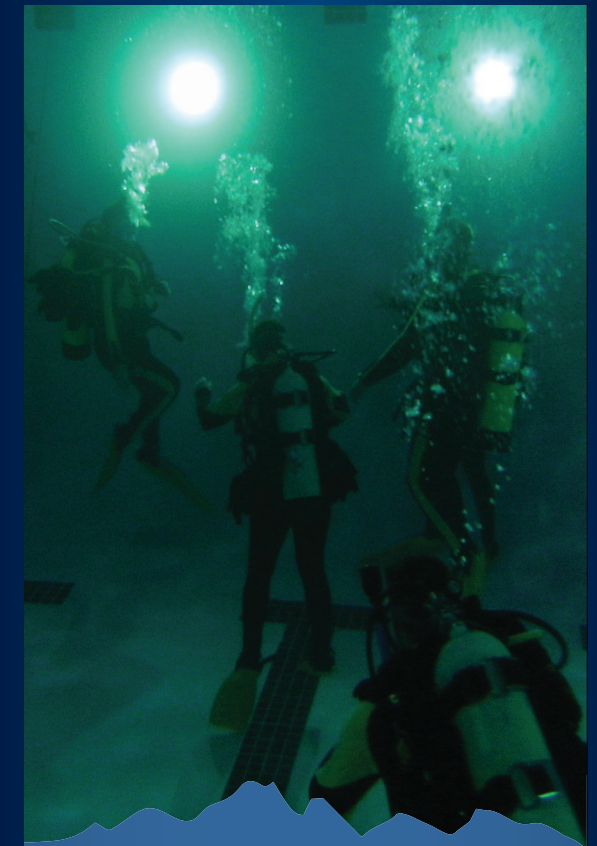
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WCCC WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Technical Certificate
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVING

A BRANCH OF MESA STATE COLLEGE



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Public Safety Diving

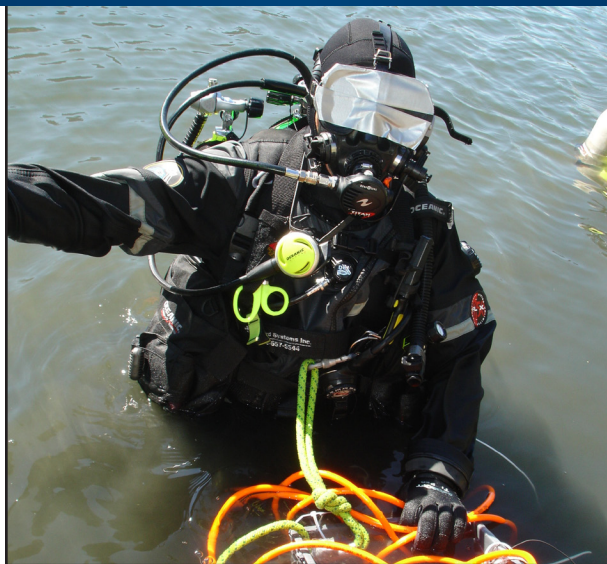
Public Safety Diving (PSD) is underwater work conducted by law enforcement, fire rescue, and search and rescue/recovery dive teams.

PSD is the ability to work in sub-surface environments to enhance the overall strength and effectiveness of a department. Western Colorado Community College's PSD Certificate program equips graduates with the skills and ability to work in sub-surface environments searching for evidence, searching for a body or re-enacting a crime scene, and possibly conducting an in-water rescue.

When law enforcement approach a land-based crime scene, there are certain protocols that need to be followed in order to not contaminate the scene and collect valuable evidence that is admissible in court. Without proper training, valuable information may be overlooked. Many law enforcement departments do not have qualified divers who can process an underwater crime scene. Typical crime scenes for PSDs are in rivers, lakes, and ponds.

Unlike the recreational diver who can choose the date, time, location, and the type of weather to dive in, PSDs respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and in all types of weather conditions.

MSC/WCCC is the first college in Colorado to offer the PSD program for college credit. Additionally, the eight credit hours earned may be applied to the Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice or Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Administration/Public Safety as elective credits.



Career Opportunities

Public safety diving offers many exciting career opportunities while allowing graduates the opportunity to become more marketable in their professions, including:

- Investigators
- Sub-Surface Crime Scene Specialists
- Forensic Investigators
- Police Divers
- Team Training Officers
- Safety Officers
- Water Operations Supervisors
- Forensic Researchers

Individuals who acquire specialties within the law enforcement, fire service, and investigative occupations are sought after and are better compensated by local law enforcement agencies as well as the FBI, National Park Service, State Police Dive Units, and scientific dive teams.

CREDIT HOURS

CRJW 201	Public Safety Diving Phase I	4
CRJW 202	Homicidal Drowning Investigations	2
CRJW 203	Rapid Diver Deployment SARR/UWCSI	2

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CRJW 201 Public Safety Diving Phase I (80 contact hours)

Public Safety Diving Environments - The formation of responsible scuba diving practices. Includes Basic Open Water Scuba Certification and protection from contaminated environments. Phase I meets the American Academy of Underwater Sciences Dive Program standards - Scientific Diving for Biology majors. Prerequisites: POST Association, or Criminal Justice Major, or Fire Service, or medical evaluation, or physically fit, or instructor permission.

CRJW 202 Homicidal Drowning Investigations (30 contact hours)

Homicidal Drowning Investigations - Approaches to water related death investigations. Exploration of crime scene. Prerequisites: POST Association, or Criminal Justice Major, or Law Enforcement, or Forensic study, or Fire Service, or Emergency Medical Services, or instructor permission.

CRJW 203 Rapid Diver Deployment SARR/UWCSI (30 contact hours)

Operational development of underwater crime scene investigations. Operational protocol with Public Safety Diving hazards. Proper evidence mapping and securing underwater crime scenes. Prerequisites: Public Safety Diving Phase I, medical evaluation, physically fit, or instructor permission.

