

## Goals and Purpose of the PADI Divemaster Course

As the entry to professional levels in diver training, the PADI Divemaster course plays a pivotal role within the PADI System of diver education. Those who join the PADI Divemaster ranks assist you and other instructors with training student divers. They supervise diving activities for certified divers, snorkelers and skin divers. Obviously, these entry-level professionals can strongly influence the safety and fun divers enjoy during training and diving. At the same time, many PADI Divemasters are looking ahead, gaining professional experience they will apply as PADI Assistant Instructors and Open Water Scuba Instructors. In conducting the PADI Divemaster course, you're training today's certified assistants and laying the foundation for many of tomorrow's instructors.

## Who is a PADI Divemaster?

The dive community expects several characteristics of an individual with the PADI Divemaster rating. These include:

- *Exemplary diving skills.*  
The PADI Divemaster's skills can be used as demonstrations for student divers.
- *Rescue skill.*  
The PADI Divemaster can prevent and manage accidents, and role model rescue skills for student divers in training.
- *Professional-level knowledge of dive theory.*  
Depth of theoretical knowledge goes hand-in-hand with expertise and professionalism. This is the foundation for problem solving and creativity in the divemaster's duties, and for subsequent growth as a PADI Assistant Instructor.
- *Competence as a certified assistant.*  
PADI Divemasters know how to support instruction by handling logistical, supervisory and limited educational duties under an instructor's supervision.
- *Dive management and supervision abilities.*  
PADI Divemasters accept appropriate, limited responsibility for certified divers within the context of leading or managing diving activities. This requires good people skills and good judgment along with a strong working knowledge of dive environments and activities. The PADI Divemaster assists the dive operation with risk management.
- *Ethical role model behavior.*  
PADI Divemasters are expected to display common honesty and courtesy, and follow accepted, responsible dive practices. Their behavior reflects well on them, the dive operation for which they work, and the PADI organization.
- *Enthusiasm and fun.*  
People learn to dive for the excitement, adventure, and challenge – or broadly, for fun. They look to PADI Divemasters to assist them in having fun within their interests and skill levels. Divers expect PADI Divemasters to be pleasant and sociable individuals to interact with. The PADI Divemaster assists with the dive community's diver retention efforts.

## PADI Divemaster Duties

The following lists the duties and benefits of PADI Divemasters as they apply to PADI courses and PADI Standards.

Certified and new/renewed PADI Divemasters are authorized to:

1. Independently guide Open Water Diver/Scuba Diver students on the tour portion of Open Water Diver course Training Dives 2 through 4, at a ratio of two student divers per certified divemaster.
2. Accompany Open Water Diver/ Scuba Diver students under the indirect supervision of a PADI Instructor:
  - a. during surface swims to and from the entry/exit point.
  - b. during the navigational exercises during Dive 4.
  - c. with the group, either on the surface or underwater, while the instructor conducts a skill, such as an ascent, with an individual student diver or buddy team.
3. Conduct any subsequent dives for Discover Scuba Diving participants, at a ratio of 2:1, if insured, after the participants have satisfactorily completed the first dive under the supervision of a PADI Instructor.
4. Conduct the PADI Discover Local Diving experience, (provided the Divemaster meets insurance requirements).

5. Conduct the PADI Discover Snorkeling program, (provided the divemaster meets insurance requirements).
6. Conduct the PADI Scuba Review program for certified Open Water Divers or divers with higher certifications (provided the Divemaster meets insurance requirements).
7. Accompany student divers during training dives for the PADI Adventures in Diving program, Specialty Diver courses, or the Rescue Diver course.
8. Generally supervise both training and non-training related activities by assisting divers and student divers in the planning, organizing and direction of dives.
9. Assist a Teaching status PADI Instructor in the open water training of divers. The allowable student diver-to-instructor ratio increases by four additional student divers for each certified, renewed PADI Divemaster for all PADI programs and courses, unless stated otherwise by that course/ program's standards. For the PADI Open Water Diver/Scuba Diver course, the allowable student diver-to-instructor ratio increases by two additional student divers for each certified, renewed PADI Divemaster, to a maximum of 12 student divers to one instructor.
10. Assist a Teaching status PADI Instructor in the confined water training of divers. Use of certified, renewed PADI Divemasters increases the allowable student diver-to-instructor ratio in confined water by four additional student divers per divemaster for all courses, unless stated otherwise by that course/program's standards.
11. Teach and certify PADI Skin Divers independently (provided the divemaster meets insurance requirements). This includes conducting the PADI Seal Team AquaMission: Skin Diver Specialist following Skin Diver course standards.
12. Conduct the skin diving skills segment of the Open Water Diver course Confined Water Dive Four (provided the divemaster meets insurance requirements).

### **Benefits and Renewal Requirements of PADI Divemaster Certification**

PADI Divemasters are members of PADI. Membership provides benefits, including a subscription to *The Undersea Journal*, member pricing on selected PADI materials and services, and eligibility to purchase professional underwater liability insurance offered by PADI's agents. (Other benefits vary based on local needs and requirements).

Divemaster candidates (trainees) are authorized under the *direct supervision* of the instructor to:

1. Guide individuals who have completed all the requirements for the Scuba Diver or higher certification.
2. Accompany Open Water Diver/ Scuba Diver student divers on the tour portion of dives 2 - 4.

*It is recommended that Divemasters involved in training or supervising activities carry liability insurance.* Renewal requirements for PADI Divemasters include submitting a completed renewal application along with dues annually. A PADI Divemaster whose membership has lapsed may also need to meet additional requirements designated by PADI to be renewed. The requirements may vary depending on how long since the divemaster's last renewed membership, changes to the PADI System and Standards during that interval, and other factors. When an individual becomes a PADI Divemaster, PADI assigns the person a PADI Member number. When the PADI Divemaster becomes a PADI Assistant Instructor or Instructor, the number remains the same, though the prefix/suffix changes to reflect the new level.

### **Course Prerequisites**

To qualify to enter the PADI Divemaster course, an individual must:

1. Be certified as a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or have a qualifying certification from another training organization. A qualifying certification is defined as proof of certification beyond entry level, and proof of 20 or more logged dives documenting experience in deep diving and underwater navigation.
2. Be certified as a PADI Rescue Diver or have a qualifying certification from another training organization. A qualifying certification is defined as proof of certification in diving rescue from a training organization other than PADI. If the candidate enters with a qualifying certification, then the candidate must submit proof of CPR and first aid training within the past 24 months. If the candidate demonstrates poor or inadequate performance during the diver rescue assessment, then the candidate must complete a PADI Rescue Diver course.

3. Have completed and logged at least 20 dives as documented by the individual's personal log book.
4. Be at least 18 years old at the start of PADI Divemaster training.
5. Submit, to the instructor, medical clearance for diving signed by a physician, attesting to fitness to dive. The medical clearance must be current within the previous 12 months. The physician signing the form cannot be the individual. Professional Association of Diving Instructors

## Certification Requirements

At the time of certification, PADI Divemaster candidates must:

1. Have successfully completed a course in CPR within 24 months prior to the Divemaster certification date.
2. Have current training in first aid. Since the PADI Rescue Diver certification includes first aid training and does not expire, this requirement is met if the candidate is PADI Rescue Diver certified. If the candidate has a qualifying rescue diver certification from another organization, the candidate must have first aid training that has not expired as defined by the first aid training organization.
3. Show proof of 60 logged dives documenting experience in night diving, deep diving and underwater navigation. system, appropriate exposure suit for the environment, timing device and depth gauge (or dive computer), compass, knife/dive tool (unless prohibited by local laws or regulations) and an emergency signaling device (whistle, flare, inflatable signal tube).

## Training Materials

The following materials are **required** in training PADI Divemasters:

1. PADI *Instructor Manual*. It's recommended that candidates have a copy for their own use and reference.
2. PADI *Divemaster Manual*. All candidates must read the manual and complete the Knowledge Reviews.
3. PADI *Divemaster Video*. It's recommended that candidates watch the diver version during independent study.
4. The Recreational Dive Planner, Table and Wheel versions.
5. *The Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving Multimedia* or book (for candidate independent study of dive theory).
6. The PADI *Diving Knowledge Workbook*

You may find other PADI materials that aren't listed useful as well.

1. PADI *Underwater Navigator Manual* and *Underwater Navigation* video (for navigation skill review and mapping assignment)
2. PADI *Deep Diver Manual* and *Deep Diving* video (for deep diving knowledge development)
3. PADI *Rescue Diver Manual* and *Video* (for rescue accident management knowledge development and training exercises)
4. *Scuba Tune-up Multimedia* or guidebook (for divemaster conducted programs knowledge development)
5. The *Business of Diving* (for business of diving knowledge development)
6. Divemaster Slates (for open water training exercises)
7. Dive Roster slate (for open water training exercises)
8. Divemaster Candidate Information and Evaluation Form (for recording candidate performance throughout the program)
9. *The Law and the Diving Professional* (for risk management knowledge development)
10. *The Best of the Undersea Journal* (for risk management, business of diving knowledge development, open water and confined water training dives )
11. *Peak Performance Buoyancy* video
12. *Open Water Diver Multimedia* (RDP table and Wheel tutorial)
13. Skill Evaluation Cue card (for confined waterskills evaluation and development)
14. Skill Development Score Sheets
15. Practical Application Record Sheets

## **Emergency Assistance Plan**

Each divemaster candidate must complete an Emergency Assistance Plan individually (not in teams or pairs) for a dive site. It is recommended the plan be for a destination commonly visited by divers from the local area. Your Emergency Assistance Plan will be evaluated on your completeness in providing information someone would need to manage a diving accident at the assigned site. The plan may include information such as local emergency medical contact information, contact information for local authorities involved in evacuating an injured diver, contact for area diver emergency service (if present in the area), nearest operational recompression chamber (for areas not served by DAN or DES or a similar service), communication requirements (such as if the area has no cellular service) and any other information you indicate would apply to the particular area. If a candidate's Emergency Assistance Plan is incomplete, the candidate will revise the plan until it is complete. Make a copy for the instructor, the other divemaster candidates, and keep a copy for your records.

## **Waterskills and Stamina**

### **Stamina Assessment and Development**

There are four exercises that evaluate stamina and water skills each rated by points. There is no passing score for any single exercise, but a combined score of 12 or more is required prior to certification. In addition, candidates must complete all exercises prior to certification.

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#### **Stamina Exercise 1: 400 Yard Swim**

The candidate must swim 400 yards without stopping using no swimming aids and using any stroke or combination of strokes desired. If a candidate stops, the exercise is incomplete and must be repeated.

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
under 6 min	5
6 to 8 min	4
8 to 10 min	3
10 to 12 min	2
more than 12 min	1
stopped	incomplete

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#### **Stamina Exercise 2: 15 Minute Tread**

Using no aids and wearing only a swimsuit, the candidate will stay afloat by treading water, drown proofing, bobbing or floating for 15 minutes, with hands (not arms) out of the water during the last 2 minutes. A candidate with a physical challenge that makes it difficult/impossible to hold hands out of the water is exempted from that portion of the exercise with no effect on the score.

<b><u>Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Performed satisfactorily	5
Stayed afloat, but hands not out of water entire 2 minutes	3
Used side/bottom for momentary support no more than twice	1
Used side/bottom for support more than twice	incomplete

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#### **Stamina Exercise 4: 100 Yard Inert Diver Tow**

Wearing full scuba equipment, the candidate must push or tow an inert diver in full scuba at the surface 100 yards nonstop without assistance. Note that this is a swimming power evaluation (speed-against-drag) *not* a rescue evaluation. If a candidate stops, the exercise is incomplete and must be repeated.

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
under 2 min	5
2 to 3 min	4
3 to 4 min	3
4 to 5 min	2
more than 5 min	1
stopped	incomplete

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### Stamina Exercise 3: 800 Yard Snorkel Swim

Using a mask, fins, snorkel and swimsuit only (no BCD or flotation aids) and swimming with the face in the water, the candidate must swim nonstop for 800 yards. The candidate may not use arms to swim, unless the candidate has a physical challenge that limits leg use and arm-swimming is the individual's normal swimming method while diving. If a candidate stops, the exercise is incomplete and must be repeated.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Points</u>
under 13 min	5
13 to 15 min	4
15 to 17 min	3
17 to 19 min	2
more than 19 min	1
stopped	incomplete

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### Diver Rescue Assessment

The Diver Rescue Assessment and Development has three goals. First, it evaluates effectiveness to assure that candidates can perform a rescue if necessary in an emergency. Second, it improves the quality of rescue skills to be more role model for assisting with the PADI Rescue Diver course. Third, it forms the foundation of demonstration quality rescues required during the IDC/IE. This exercise is the simulated rescue of an unresponsive, non-breathing diver. It applies a pass/fail evaluation criteria.

1. The “victim” is in full scuba equipment and submerged around 25 yards from the “rescuer”. The rescuer starts from the pool deck, shore or boat as appropriate.
2. The rescuer enters the water, locates and surfaces the victim, properly checks for and weights, mask and scuba unit, and removes the victim from the water.
3. To pass as an *effective* rescue, you must be able to answer “yes” to all the following:
  - Upon surfacing, did the rescuer establish victim’s buoyancy?
  - Did the rescuer look, listen and feel for breathing?
  - Did rescuer open the airway and give two slow rescue breaths?
  - Did the rescuer call for help?
  - Did the rescuer use an effective in-water rescue breathing technique?
  - Did the rescuer protect the victim’s airway with no or *very few* interruptions?
  - Did the rescuer maintain regular ventilations with no or *very few* interruptions?
  - Did the rescuer resume any ventilation interruptions with two slow rescue breaths?
  - Did the rescuer perform the rescue without any assistance (except the exit where individual physical characteristics and/or the environment may require assistance)?Note that there is no time limit for the rescue.

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### Confined Water Skill Evaluation Scores

<u>Score</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>
1	Candidate unable to perform exercise.
2	Exercise performed with significant difficulty or error.
3	Exercise performed correctly, though too quickly to adequately exhibit or illustrate details of the skill
4	Exercise performed correctly, and slowly enough to adequately exhibit or illustrate details of skill.
5	Exercise performed correctly, slowly and with exaggerated movement –appeared easy.

The Confined Waterskill Assessment and Development has two purposes – to verify that the candidate can perform the 18 basic dive skills from the PADI Skill Evaluation, and to train the candidate to perform these skills to *demonstration quality*.

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## Mapping Project

In this exercise candidates survey a dive site and draw a map from it. Besides the obvious function of giving candidates experience in creating maps for use by divers and as a briefing aid, the exercise has another important educational role. Candidates learn to combine several skills – dive planning, underwater navigation, search patterns, and data recording – to achieve the goal. In effect, mapping is a problem-solving exercise that relies on effective dive organization and management.

### Procedures

1. The importance of dive planning is the primary ingredient in successful mapping.
2. Be as accurate as possible in their measurements and what you record. Inaccuracies tend to be cumulative. Attention to detail makes for a better map.
3. If possible, save their slate notes and other resources for instructors review.
4. An adequate map is one that is complete and would be useful for navigation by someone who has never been at the site before.

### Candidates must:

1. Survey with a buddy, a dive site or portion of a dive site assigned by the instructor, including underwater and surface features, with sufficient detail and accuracy for creating a map of the site.
2. Create a map of the dive site, showing (as applicable to the site) underwater relief, important points of interest, recommended entry/exit areas, local facilities, and potential hazards.

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## Practical Application

### Internship

The Internship portion of the Practical Application Module meets both instructional and experience goals for the PADI Divemaster course by having candidates supervise and assist divers during training situations. The philosophy of the internship is for candidates to learn by applying principles and skills to actual supervision and teaching situations. The role of the instructor is to guide this experiential learning so that candidates gradually gain confidence and broaden responsibilities in a wide array of activities. Therefore, candidate duties may range from assisting with equipment handling and logistics to assisting a student diver with a problem (under instructor supervision).

For all internship activities a PADI Instructor must fill in any gaps or make any corrections necessary to ensure that divers receive complete and accurate training. Besides directly supervising program conduct, a PADI Instructor must assess diver skills to assure mastery consistent with program requirements.

Your instructor has the choice of having candidates complete the entire Internship *or* all the Practical Training Exercises. Giving candidates the opportunity to complete all of one and parts of the other is recommended when feasible for added candidate confidence and experience.

### Internship Requirements

Divemaster candidates must participate in at least:

1. One PADI Open Water Diver course confined water session.
2. Four additional confined-water training sessions from any PADI course or program. This may include sessions from the Open Water Diver course, Rescue Diver course, Discover Scuba Diving program, Peak Performance Buoyancy course and other specialty courses and PADI programs.
3. One PADI Open Water Diver course open-water training dive.
4. One PADI Adventures in Diving, Rescue Diver or PADI Specialty Diver course open water training session.
5. Three additional open-water training dives from any PADI course or program (open water dives, advanced open water dives, specialty open water dives or rescue open water dives).

6. One supervisory situation with certified divers not in a formal course. Required Training Exercise sessions with actual student divers/certified divers to meet other PADI Divemaster course requirements may *not* be counted toward the internship requirement.

### Internship Objectives

During the internship, candidates must:

1. Organize the pre-dive setup of equipment by Open Water Diver students for confined water and open water training.
2. Coordinate student diver flow during confined water and open water training dives.
3. Supervise Open Water Diver student divers not receiving the immediate attention of the instructor during confined and open water training.
4. Account for buddy teams entering and leaving the water by checking them in and out of the water.
5. Assist a student in overcoming a learning difficulty in confined water, or a continuing education student diver in open water.
6. Respond to, or prevent, diver problems as they occur in each section of the internship.
7. Demonstrate four or more skills for student divers in confined water.
8. Assist in the preparation of an open-water training site.
9. Conduct an environmental assessment at an open-water training site and report to the instructor appropriate recommendations about the suitability of the site for training entry-level and continuing education student divers.
10. Lead student divers on an underwater tour (ratio 2:1) for pleasure. (A PADI Instructor must directly supervise this tour, though the candidate conducts the tour as if the instructor were indirectly supervising.)
11. Conduct environmental and diver assessments for supervising divers not in training and include recommendations based on the assessment in a pre-dive briefing, and take other appropriate steps based on the assessments.
12. Conduct an appropriate pre-dive briefing for a dive site.
13. Escort continuing education student divers on an indirectly supervised training dives and report observed performances to the instructor and assist with problems, if any.

### Assessing Candidate Performance

Mastery of Internship objectives is based on scoring of a 3 or higher on each of the performance requirements.

### Score Performance

- 5 Candidate independently accomplished the objective without noticeable errors, and showed creativity while anticipating instructor and diver needs in the process.
- 4 Candidate accomplished the objective with no noticeable errors and without significant help from instructor or staff.
- 3 Candidate accomplished the objective adequately, with a few insignificant errors. Instructor correction and intervention limited to brief reminders or suggestions.
- 2 Candidate showed rudimentary understanding of tasks required to meet objective, but made significant errors or omissions. Instructor correction and intervention was required for a competent result.
- 1 Candidates made many or substantial errors and omissions in attempting task, or tasks not completed.

### Equipment Exchange

The primary goal of the equipment exchange is problem solving, but with an added level of *unanticipated* problems and performance under stress. Because the exercise creates an environment with unforeseeable difficulties, candidates have to apply their experience and knowledge creatively, to meet the demands of the moment. This is an important aspect of leading divers and solving problems on the spot.

### Performance Standard

Demonstrate the ability to solve unanticipated problems underwater by exchanging all scuba equipment (except exposure suits and weights) with a buddy while buddy breathing. **Candidates must earn a 3 or higher as described in the evaluation criteria.**

<u>Score</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
5	Task performed in a well-thought-out, efficient and purposeful manner with no sign of problems. Very low anxiety level. Looks routine and fun.
4	Task performed competently with a relatively low anxiety level. Problems encountered were easily and efficiently handled.
3	Complete exchange occurred without surfacing. However, numerous problems were encountered that delayed the speed and efficiency of the performance. The grade is also appropriate for a buddy who was overly dependent on the other, and who, in essence, had everything done for him.
2	Significant problems demonstrated, and exchange completed only after one or both team members surfaced once.
1	Inability to complete the exchange, or exchange completed but required one or both members to surface more than once.

### Required Training Exercise 3

#### *Divemaster Conducted Program*

This exercise familiarizes candidates with programs they may conduct without instructor supervision. This scenario builds upon what candidates learned in Topic 9 – Divemaster Conducted Programs by having them conduct part or all of a simulated or actual Discover Snorkeling, Scuba Review, or Discover Local Diving program, or PADI Skin Diver course. If simulating this exercise, the minimum number of role players required is 4.

#### Procedures

1. Organize an actual or simulated PADI Discover Snorkeling, Scuba Review, Discover Local Diving, or PADI Skin Diver course. If you have candidates participate in an actual program, remember that PADI Divemaster *candidates* may not be used to meet ratio requirements.
2. Have candidates review the program standards in the PADI *Instructor Manual*.
3. Assign each candidate a briefing, supervision/skills, and debriefing. The program chosen will influence what you assign. For example with Discover Local Diving, the candidate might conduct the entire dive Divemaster Course Instructor Guide 5-5 briefing, a short part of the dive, and the entire debriefing. With the PADI Skin Diver course, the candidate may brief one or more skills, demonstrate the skills and conduct student practice, then debrief the skills.
4. Demonstrate a role model briefing, conduct and debriefing for the program prior to having candidates perform theirs. Your demonstration may be part of an actual program, or a simulated one.
5. Explain to candidates that they will be assessed for all phases of their assignment based on:
  - the completeness, effectiveness and compliance with standards,
  - the application of what they've learned during Knowledge Development and through diving experience,
  - their application of good judgment.
6. Have candidates brief, conduct and debrief their assignments in open or confined water as required by the program selected. It's recommended that different candidates have different assignments, and when feasible, that assignments involve different PADI Divemaster conducted programs.

Remember that in actual programs, a PADI Instructor must fill in any gaps or make any corrections necessary to assure that participants receive complete and accurate briefings/debriefings. Besides directly supervising program conduct, a PADI Instructor must assess participant skills to assure mastery consistent with program requirements.

### *Assessing Candidate Performance*

Evaluate the exercise as adequate or inadequate based on completeness, accuracy, appropriateness and the application of good judgment. To qualify as adequate, you should be able to answer “yes” to the following questions (some may not apply to all programs or assignments):

#### Briefing

- Did the candidate assess dive conditions?
- Did the candidate give planned dive limits (time/depth/distance/air supply) within those conditions?
- Did the candidate clearly state what participant and divemaster roles will be?
- For instructional programs (e.g., PADI Skin Diver course, Scuba Review), did the candidate give clear objectives of what participants will be able to do?
- Did the candidate provide dive site description and area orientation (hazards, points of interest, special requirements, facilities)?
- Did the candidate assess participants (properly equipped, etc.) as appropriate for the program?
- Candidates must:

Conduct a simulated or actual PADI Discover Snorkeling, Scuba Review, or Discover Local Diving program, or PADI Skin Diver course, while under the direct supervision of a PADI Instructor, in a manner that shows a complete briefing, effective and safe in-water supervision, and an effective debriefing.

- Did the candidate brief participants on entry/exit techniques and locations?
- Did the candidate include other briefing components as required by program standards?
- Did the candidate confirm that divers have buddies?
- Did the candidate confirm or make a pre-dive safety check (as appropriate for the program)?
- Did the candidate review communications, emergency procedures and recall procedures?

#### *Program Conduct*

- Did the candidate supervise from appropriate vantage point?
- Did the candidate give effective skill demonstrations (if appropriate for program)?
- Did the candidate handle problems effectively?
- Did the candidate keep activities organized and in control?

#### Debriefing

- Did the candidate identify problems and solutions to them?
- Did the candidate sign dive logs?

#### General

- Was the program generally positive and fun?
- Did the candidate follow PADI Standards throughout?
- Did the candidate make appropriate adjustments to ratios, limits, etc. within standards to accommodate conditions, individual characteristics or other factors?

Remediate candidates, as necessary, and have them repeat the exercise until they can to conduct the program adequately in all respects.