

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Divers Institute of Technology – Seattle, Washington

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the Divers Institute of Technology (DIT) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its 55-year history of training professional commercial divers, extensive underwater technical certifications, and veteran-owned operational model. Operating from its Seattle campus on Lake Union and Puget Sound, DIT serves as a primary postsecondary vocational training provider for commercial diving, salvage, and marine construction across the Pacific Northwest and internationally.

Operational Footprint & Assets

Delivers immersive, hands-on commercial diver instruction using surface-supplied gear, hyperbaric systems, and dedicated marine vessels.

- **Core Professional Commercial Diving Track:** Conducts a 28-week, 900-hour comprehensive program qualifying entry-level commercial divers and tenders. Training culminates in open water qualifying deep dives to 165 feet meeting domestic (ADCI) and international (DCBC/CSA) occupational standards.
- **Training Fleet & Water Assets:** Operates the USCG-inspected 63-foot steel-hull dive training vessel *M/V Response* (94 GRT) moored on Northlake Way, alongside dedicated welding shops, rigging bays, and deep-water dive platforms.
- **Post-Graduate & Advanced Credentials:** Offers specialized certifications including Diving Medical Technician (NBDHMT), Kirby Morgan Hat Maintenance Technician, Diving Supervisor, ASNT Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), and NAUI Commercial SCUBA/Nitrox.
- **Accreditations & Industry Regulatory Approval:** Accredited continuously by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and licensed by the WA Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Member of ADCI, IDSA, and DCBC.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Provides essential underwater technical labor for offshore energy, civil infrastructure, salvage, and public safety sectors.

- **Consistent Student Throughput & Placement:** Enrolls 250–300 students annually, maintaining a 2022 graduation rate of 87% and an 80% graduate employment placement rate in the marine industry.
- **High Veteran Population:** Veteran-owned and operated since 1968, with military veterans (predominantly Navy and Army) accounting for 45% to 50% of the active student body.
- **Regional Infrastructure & Emergency Support:** Placed graduates with Seattle Harbor Patrol for recovery and salvage missions, local union marine contractors for over-lake freeway expansion and bridge maintenance, and regional dive firms (Global Diving & Salvage, Associated Underwater Services) for advanced staff credentialing.

- **Public Safety & Community Service:** Provides waterway bottom mitigation surveys, hull inspections, and search-and-recovery support to local law enforcement.

Strategic Outlook

To support growing regional demands in offshore wind, coastal defense, and civil infrastructure repair, Divers Institute of Technology continues to expand its non-destructive testing (NDT), hydraulic tool, and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) diving modules. By pairing rigorous safety-first deep water operations with internationally recognized credentials, DIT sustains a vital workforce pipeline for the domestic and global underwater marine economy.