

Rank Designations and Requirements

The following student ranks are from the lowest to the highest ranks. The first five grades of the Black Belt represent skill and physical application of the art. The last five grades represent outstanding accomplishments and devotion to the art.

<u>Color of Belt</u>	<u>Kyu or Grade</u>	<u>Terminology</u>	<u>Time Required</u>	<u>Time-In- Grade</u>	<u>Min. Age Rqmt.</u>
1. White	8 th class	Hachikyu	0-2 mos.	Any	None
2. Yellow	7 th class	Shichikyu	3-4 mos.	Any	None
3. Blue	6 th class	Rokukyu	5-6 mos.	5 mos.	None
4. Green	5 th class	Gokyu	7-8 mos.	4 mos.	None
5. Purple	4 th class	Yonkyu	9-10 mos.	3 mos.	11-13yrs.
6. Brown	3 rd class	Sankyu	1 year	3 mos.	14 yrs.
7. Brown	2 nd class	Nikyu	1 year	4 mos.	15 yrs.
8. Brown	1 st class	Ikkyu	2 years	5 mos.	16 yrs.
9. Black	1 st grade	Shodan	2-3 years	6 mos.	17 yrs.
10. Black	2 nd grade	Nidan	4-5 years	1 year	22 yrs.
11. Black	3 rd grade	Sandan	6-9 years	2 years	26 yrs.
12. Black	4 th grade	Yondan	10-15 years	3 years	30 yrs.
13. Black	5 th grade	Godan	18-20 years	4 years	35 yrs.
14. Black/red & white	6 th grade	Rokudan	25-30 years	5 years	40 yrs.
15. Black/red & white	7 th grade	Shichidan	30-35 years	6 years	50 yrs.
16. Black/red & white	8 th grade	Hachidan	35-40 years	7 years	55 yrs.
17. Black or Red	9 th grade	Kudan	40-45 years	8 years	60 yrs.
18. Black or Red	10 th grade	Judan	50-55 years	Any	60 yrs.

The ranking system is almost identical to the international ranking system as approved by Japan Budo Ku-Kai in 1933. The student being promoted must meet the three following requirements before being considered for promotion: 1. Time in grade; 2. Time requirement; 3. Years of age.

RENSHI – for 5th and 6th grades 35 years of age and over KYOSHI – for 7th and 8th grades 50 years of age and over. HANSHI – for 9th and 10th grades 60 years of age and over. Titles are given for exceptional achievements and outstanding character.

Note: The above Kyu ranks to Shodan may be obtained if the student partakes in 3-4 classes weekly and consistently. The student must also participate in all demonstrations given by his/her Sensei while competing in a minimum amount of tournaments (2) during the year.