



Traditional Shotokan Karate-Do Institute

Better Leadership, Better Karate

Shotokan Requirements to Shodan—1st Degree Black Belt

BELT COLOR	MINIMUM TIME-IN-GRADE	TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
WHITE 9 KYU	<i>9 MONTHS</i>	KIHON– Basic Techniques TAIKYOKU SHODAN TAIKYOKU NIDAN TAIKYOKU SANDAN
YELLOW 8 KYU	<i>3 MONTHS</i>	HEIAN SHODAN
GREEN 7 KYU	<i>3 MONTHS</i>	HEIAN NIDAN
GREEN 6 KYU	<i>3 MONTHS</i>	HEIAN SANDAN
PURPLE 5 KYU	<i>6 MONTHS</i>	HEIAN YONDAN
PURPLE 4 KYU	<i>6 MONTHS</i>	HEIAN GODAN
BROWN	<u>Sankyu</u> <i>6 MONTHS</i> <u>Nikyu</u> <i>6 MONTHS</i> <u>Ikkyu</u> <i>6 MONTHS</i>	TEKKI SHODAN BASSI-DAI KANKU-DAI EMPI JION
BLACK <i>Shodan - 1st Degree</i>	<i>1 year</i>	JUTTE



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Black Belt Ranks: Please read Age & Time-In-Grade Requirements

RANK	MINIMUM AGE	MINIMUM TIME-IN-GRADE
Shodan-Ho	16 years of age	6-12 months
Shodan	17 years of age	1 year before Nidan
Nidan II	17 years of age	2 years before Sandan
Sandan III	19 years of age	3 years before Yondan
Yondan IIII	20+ years of age	3 years before Godan
Godan IIIII	23+ years of age	4 years before Rokudan
Rokudan IIIIII	35 years of age	5 years before Nanadan
Nanadan IIIIIII	42 years of age	6 years before Hachidan
Hachidan IIIIIIII	50 years of age	10 years before Kudan
Kudan IIIIIIIII	60 years of age	Honorary Only
Judan IIIIIIIIII	65 years of age	Honorary only

AFMA and TSKI Organizations Titles

RANK	MINIMUM AGE	MINIMUM TRAINING TIME	TITLE	TITLE REQUIREMENTS
Shodan	17	3 years	--	--
Nidan	17	1 year after Shodan	SENSEI	--
Sandan	19	2 years after Nidan	SENSEI	--
Yondan	20+	3 years after Sandan	SHIHAN	At least 2 years after Yondan; Minimum age 21
Godan	23+	3 years after Yondan	RENSHI	At least 2 years after Shihan; Minimum age 25
Rokudan	35	4 years after Godan	RENSHI	As above
Nanadan	42	6 years after Rokudan	KYOSHI	At least 8 years after Renshi
Hachidan	50	7 years after Nanadan	KYOSHI	As above
Kudan	60	8 years after Hachidan	HANSHI	At least 10 years after Kyoshi
Judan	65	5 years after Kudan	HANSHI	As above



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Concerning Junior Ranks and Titles

Rank held by young people under the age of sixteen (16) are considered *junior grades*, and such individuals may not be promoted beyond *3rd Dan*. Even though the same test is administered to young people as to adults, age and development are taken into consideration during the examination. Upon reaching the age of sixteen, black-belt holders of the 2nd and 3rd Dan automatically revert to the *1st Dan* and are then considered to be senior-grade holders of this degree. They may at that time take a reexamination for the 2nd and 3rd Dan if their progress and experience warrant it.