

Rules for Dan Ranks

1. General Rules

The Dan ranking system consists of eight steps from Shodan (1st degree) to Hachi Dan (8th degree). Dan ranks will be awarded on the basis of overall ability or accomplishments and will be presented by the Aikido Doshu. There are two methods of obtaining Dan ranks; through grading examination or by recommendation.

2. Qualification Criteria

The following two conditions must be met by a person seeking to receive a Dan rank.

- (1) The applicant must be a member of the Aikikai.
- (2) The applicant must fulfill the following qualification criteria.
 - (A) In the case of grading exams for ranks from Shodan to 4th Dan, the following qualification criteria must be met as minimums.

Qualification Criteria of the grading examination

Desired Rank	Required years & practice days after the previous rank obtained	Subject of examination	Age	Time of examination
Shodan (1 st Dan)	More than 70 days of practice after receiving 1 st Kyu	Actual skill	15 years old and above	On the specific date determined by each Aikido organization
2 nd Dan	More than 1 year after receiving shodan (More than 200 days of practice)	Actual skill plus Essay	--	
3 rd Dan	More than 2 years after receiving 2 nd Dan (more than 300 days of practice)	Actual skill plus Essay	--	
4 th Dan	More than 3 years after receiving 3 rd Dan (More than 400 days of practice)	Actual skill plus Essay	22 years old and above	

Notes: - This applies to persons who average 15 days of practice per month and whose progress is recognized.

- As a rule, grading examinations should be taken at the Dojo where the applicant mainly practices. In the event of taking grading examination at other dojo due to special circumstances, the written permission of the head instructors of both dojos is required in advance.

- (B) In the case of recommendation for ranks from Shodan to 8th Dan, the following qualification criteria must be met as minimum.

Qualification Criteria to receive the Recommendation

Rank	Required years* after the previous rank obtained	Age	Time of announcement
Shodan (1 st Dan)	More than 2 years after joining the Aikikai	20 years old and above	On the day of Kagami-biraki ceremony at the Aikikai
2 nd Dan	More than 2 years after receiving Shodan	--	
3 rd Dan	More than 3 years after receiving 2 nd Dan	--	
4 th Dan	More than 4 years after receiving 3 rd Dan	--	
5 th Dan	More than 5 years after receiving 4 th Dan	--	
6 th Dan	More than 6 years after receiving 5 th Dan	33 years old and above	
7 th Dan	More than 12 years after receiving 6 th Dan	45 years old and above	
8 th Dan	More than 15 years after receiving 7 th Dan	60 years old and above	

*Necessary number of days to constitute one year in the table above is minimum 180 days.

3. Aikikai International Yudansha Book

Dan rank holders of Shodan and above should have an Aikikai International Yudansha Book issued by the Aikikai.

4. Registration Fees, Grading examination Fees, Etc.

Separate rules exist for grading examination fees, registration fees, and administrative fees, in addition to the Dan rank promotion rules.

Appendix

These rules are effective from April 1, 2007.