

Grades

Shotokan Grading

The Shotokan Karate-do International Federation (S.K.I.F) syllabus was devised by Chief Instructor Sensei Kanazawa 10th Dan as a way of providing a guide for both students and instructors as to what a student should know at each grade as they progress through the grading system. The syllabus is used in all S.K.I.F clubs throughout the world and therefore helps maintain a consistent standard of S.K.I.F Karate.

On Occasions throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to train and grade with top S.K.I.F instructors locally at our Dojos, a major benefit of our affiliation. It is a great honour to receive tuition from such world famous Karate-ka. These events are not to be missed.

While the syllabus helps instructors and students prepare for gradings, which can be nervous events for instructors and students, it should not be seen as all a student needs to know for their grading. The syllabus is the minimum requirement for a particular grade but students should strive to progress to the best of their abilities at all times. It should also be remembered that your instructor can alter the grading requirements on the day and students must be prepared for this to happen.

This information is given as a useful reminder for students. It should in no way be considered a substitute for hard work and regular training. Technical proficiency is the primary criteria but other factors including regular attendance, good spirit and attitude may also be applicable at Sensei's discretion.

To be considered for grading you must attend the mock/pre grading tests, which are held a number of weeks before the grading. Sensei will assess your ability at this time and confirm if you are ready to progress or not.

Normal Minimum Training Times between grades:

Grade Range	Normal minimum times between gradings
Below 3rd Kyu (Brown Belt)	Normally 3 months training twice a week
3rd Kyu & 2nd Kyu	Min 3, normal 6 months training twice a week
1st Kyu to 1st Dan	Min 6, normal 12 months
1st Dan to 2nd Dan	2 Years and over 16 years old.

2nd Dan to 3rd Dan	3 Years
3rd Dan to 4th Dan	4 Years
4th Dan to 5th Dan	5 Years
6th Dan and above	Very Exceptional

The examiner, in conjunction with the Club Sensei, can use discretion for the kyu waiting times. Only Kanazawa kancho can vary the Dan Grade requirements.

Grading examiners can vary up to two of the kihon / kumite grading requirements.

Mon gradings, adapted for younger children, have recently been introduced into the club. These gradings are awarded for technical ability demonstrated in individual areas of the opening grading syllabus and operate as “stepping stones “ towards 9th Kyu. Mon gradings are attainable at mock grading, pre grading and grading tests at Sensei’s discretion.