

## Rules for Dan Ranks

### 1. General Rules

The Dan ranking system consists of eight steps from Shodan (1<sup>st</sup> degree) to Hachi Dan (8<sup>th</sup> 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 Standards

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

(1) The candidate must be a member of the Aikikai.

(2) The candidate must fulfill the following qualification standards.

(A) In the case of grading exams for ranks from Shodan to 4<sup>th</sup> Dan, the following qualifications must be met as minimums.

#### Qualifications for Grading Exam Standards

Desired Rank	Days/Years of Required practice	Subject of exam	Age	Time of Test
Shodan (1 <sup>st</sup> Dan)	More than 70 days of practice after receiving 1 <sup>st</sup> kyu	Actual skill	15 years old and above	On the specific date determined by each Aikido organization
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	More than 1 year after receiving shodan (More than 200 days of practice)	Actual skill plus Essay	--	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	More than 2 years after receiving 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan (more than 300 days of practice)	Actual skill plus Essay	--	
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 3 years after receiving 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan (More than 400 days of practice)	Actual skill plus short Thesis	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, tests should be taken at the Dojo where the person mainly practices. In the event of a request to exam at another dojo due to special circumstances, the permission of the head instructors of both dojos is required.

(B) In the case of recommendation for ranks from Shodan to 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, the following qualifications must be met as minimums.

Qualifications for Recommendation standards

Rank	Years of Practice	Age	Time
Shodan	More than 2 years after joining the Aikikai	20 years old and above	On the day of the Kagami Biraki at the Aikiai
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	More than 2 years after receiving Shodan	--	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	More than 3 years after receiving 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	--	
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 4 years after receiving 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	--	
5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 5 years after receiving 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	--	
6 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 6 years after receiving 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	33 years old and above	
7 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 12 years after receiving 6 <sup>th</sup> Dan	45 years old and above	
8 <sup>th</sup> Dan	More than 15 years after receiving 7 <sup>th</sup> Dan	60 years old and above	

3. International Yudansha Book

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

4. Registration Fees, Grading examination Fees, Etc.

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

Appendix

These rules are effective from April 1, 2007.