

KOBUKAI JU-JITSU

MUDANSHA RANKING

WHITE BELT: Novice. Learning basic techniques. Must be able to demonstrate the core Beginner techniques in order to move to Yellow Belt. Expect to be a white belt for 6-9 months.

YELLOW BELT: Beginner. Has a good knowledge of beginner techniques. Exhibits a basic toughness and necessary aggressiveness, tempered with safety. Starts to show an understanding of strategy. Must be able to demonstrate most beginner techniques as well as show proficiency in practical self-defense applications to move to Blue Belt. Expect to be a yellow belt for 6 – 9 months.

BLUE BELT: Intermediate. Knows all novice and beginner techniques. Uses these techniques in self-defense and ne-waza. Developing strategies. Setting up strings of techniques. Makes smooth transitions and understands principles. Knows some Jujitsu history. Must be able to demonstrate the novice and beginner techniques and execute most of this level's techniques in practical self-defense application and passes a formal examination to move to Brown Belt. Expect to be a blue belt for 12 – 18 months.

BROWN BELT: Advanced. Knows all novice, beginner and intermediate techniques. Has developed their own strategies. Excellent at unrehearsed self-defense. Knows Jujitsu history. Can assist in teaching class. Understands safety issues. Demonstrates all lower-rank techniques with precision and executes techniques in practical self-defense applications with experience and clean technique. Has developed personal maturity which is demonstrated in the dojo. Expect to be a brown belt for 12 – 18 months.

BLACK BELT: Sempai. Potential Assistant Instructor. Teaches by example in attitude, strategy, and technique. Has passed the formal Blackbelt examination in front of Joseki. Represents the school. Understands that the real learning is about to begin. Excellent at all aspects of unrehearsed self-defense, ne-waza, and weapon defenses. This first level of Blackbelt is referred to as Okuiri and is equivalent to the Shodan rank in the modern dan-ni ranking system.

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YUDANSHA RANKING/LICENSES

OKUIRI

Title of Sempai (Senior). Potential Assistant Instructor. This first level of Blackbelt is referred to as Okuiiri (meaning “entrance to secrets”) and is equivalent to the Shodan rank in the modern dan-ni ranking system. You will stay at this level for approximately 2 years, where you will continue to master the mudansha level techniques, especially the Advanced Waza. Your attendance, attitude, fortitude, technical ability, and teaching ability will be watched closely. You will wear a Black Belt.

MOKUROKU

Title of Sempai (Senior). Assistant Instructor. This second level of Blackbelt is referred to as Mokuroku (meaning “catalog” which refers to your knowledge of the catalog of techniques) and is equivalent to the Nidan rank in the modern dan-ni ranking system. You will stay at this level for approximately 3-4 years, where you will continue to master the mudansha level techniques, especially the Advanced Waza. You will also work on Blackbelt level techniques. Your attendance, attitude, fortitude, technical ability, and teaching ability will be watched closely. You will wear a Black Belt.

MENKYO

Title of Sensei (Teacher). This third level of Blackbelt is referred to as Menkyo (meaning “license” which means the license to teach and promote your own blackbelts) and is equivalent to the Sandan or Yondan ranks in the modern dan-ni ranking system. You will stay at this level for the majority of your martial arts career. From here you will embark on a journey of self-perfection, both in body and mind, in technique and in spirit, and will walk the path of the peaceful warrior where allowed, and the fierce warrior where required. Your attendance, attitude, fortitude, technical ability and teaching ability will be an asset to the school and others will seek to learn from you. You will wear a Black Belt.

KAIDEN

Title of Sensei (Teacher). This fourth level of Blackbelt is referred to as Kaiden (roughly meaning “master”) and is equivalent to the Godan or Rokudan ranks in the modern dan-ni ranking system. This is considered a “Master-level” blackbelt in traditional systems. It is likely you will have spent 20 or more years in Jujitsu and attained an age of 45 to 50 years of age. You remain an active leader in your home dojo or run your own dojo. You have promoted several students to blackbelt. You have attained an extremely high level of knowledge, both technical and in the concepts, histories, and strategies of Japanese martial arts as a whole. You will wear a Black Belt with Red Stripe.

DAI-MOKUROKU or MENKYO KAIDEN

Title of Shihan (Master). This level of Blackbelt comes with the title of Shihan (roughly meaning “master teacher of teachers”) and is equivalent to the Shichidan ranks in the modern dan-ni ranking system. This is considered the highest-ranking blackbelt license in traditional systems. It is likely you will have spent over 30 years in Jujitsu and attained an age of 50 years of age. You remain an active leader in your home dojo or run your own dojo. You have promoted several students to blackbelt. You have attained an extremely high level of knowledge, both technical and in the concepts, histories, and strategies of Japanese martial arts as a whole. Other Blackbelts Instructors seek to learn from you. You are a Master Instructor. You will wear the Red and White Panel Belt.