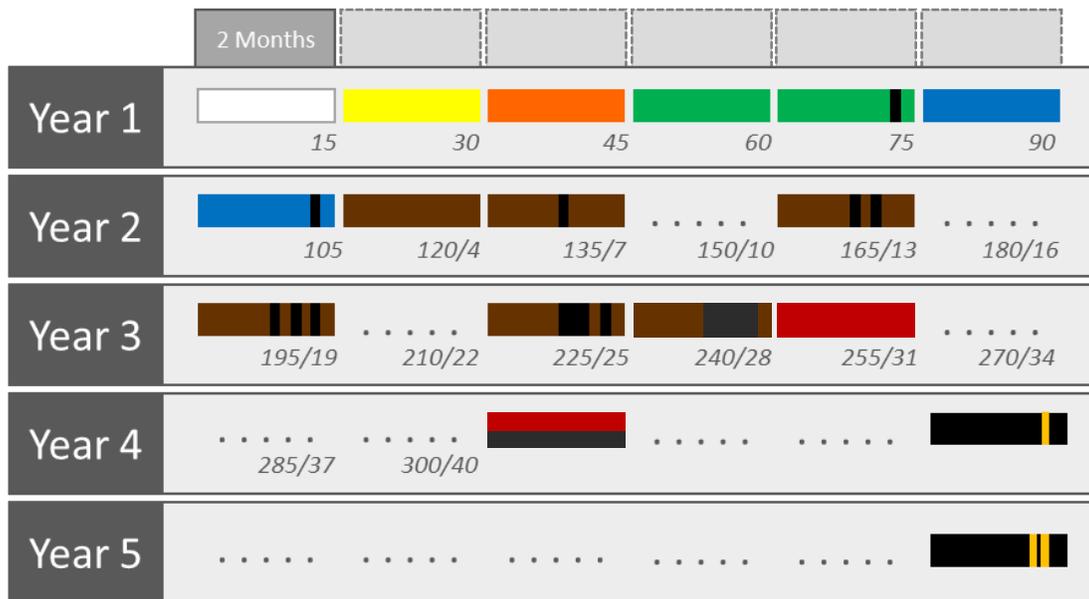


# PATH TO BLACK BELT

One of the more frequent questions students will ask is “how quickly can I earn my black belt?” The answer really depends on how much effort you want to put in and how often you can get to class. The guide below represents the typical progression and timing for students that regularly attend class twice a week. Use this as a guide on how to track your own training. Set your own goals on when you want to test for black belt.

*Note that Tiny Tigers follow a separate plan not represented here. A Tiny Tiger graduating as a black belt will promote into family class as a yellow belt.*



*Estimated Classes at End of Each Session (regular # / brown & black belt #)*

Note: Helping at test days, participating in tournaments, attending sponsored / approved seminars, or volunteering at Mission Martial Arts organized service activities can be added as a credit to your regular class count. Check with your instructor if you are unsure.

## MINIMUM BLACK BELT TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All belts have participation requirements for helping at test days, performing service projects, competing in tournaments, attending seminars, etc.

### Testing for Temporary Black Belt

- over 300 regular classes
- over 40 Brown & Black Belt Classes
- Minimum 4-6 months since earning Red Belt
- Successful completion of all Black Belt Training Program requirements
- Written essay
- In addition to the physical test, a written test will also be conducted

#### Testing for 1st dan Permanent Black Belt

- At least 13 years old
- Minimum 6 months from previous test

#### Testing for Junior Black Belt (White stripe and subsequent color stripes)

- Under 13 years old
- Minimum 6 months from previous test

#### Testing for higher dan

- Minimum 1 year for each stripe currently on the belt (i.e. – 1st testing for 2nd is 1 year)
- Teaching, assistant teaching, or otherwise leading a branch or operational function of the school

### BLACK BELT TESTING SCHEDULE & LOCATION

Black belt testing will occur twice each year. This includes those testing for temporary belts, and those testing higher. Those testing for 4<sup>th</sup> dan and higher have unique test scheduling that needs to be discussed with the Head Instructor.

The March test will occur in Louisville, typically on the first weekend of the month. The August test will take place in Iowa at Martial Arts America, typically the first Friday of the month. The Head Instructor must be present for any Black Belt tests, including any approved testing in Iowa that occurs outside of the above schedule. Plan ahead for your testing date. There are no black belt make-up tests.