

To all candidates for rank in Black Belt.

I have just finished preparing the test applications for this Fall's Black Belt exam. Each testing session I end up waiting on those few individuals who are late handing in their essays. Because of this, I have been waiting until the last minute to send in my test package to the Association test committee. I usually have to spend the extra money to overnight the package to get it to the appropriate official. This year was no exception.

I have difficulty understanding why this is so. I believe any serious student knows when they have completed their minimum time requirement to be invited to the Black Belt test. This goes for all candidates, for Black Belt candidates and for those senior students who have become eligible to test for higher rank.

I have come to the conclusion that this behavior is an unacceptable attitude for any serious student looking for advancement. In the future, the essay for higher rank will be required at the time of the Pre-Test. If the essay is not turned in at that time, that student will be rejected from participating in that current Black Belt test. She/he will have to wait until the next cycle to be invited.

As everyone knows, the test committee requires candidates to produce an essay for the Cho Dan Bo test of at least 500 words. My idea behind this was to give the candidate a head start on the 1,000 word requirement for the Black Belt essay that will be expected when it becomes time for his/her Black Belt test. Please remember, we expect competency out of our Black Belts and Black Belt candidates. This policy goes into effect immediately, and will be in place by the next Black Belt test.

Sincerely,

Master Vaughn