



Black Belt Candidate Guide & Testing Overview

Congratulations

The summit is now within sight.

You have reached a defining moment in your martial arts journey — a point that demands a higher level of commitment, focus, and purpose.

The path to Black Belt is not given — it is earned through discipline, perseverance, and character.

Black Belt is within your grasp.

At MAWE, we believe the foundation of success is built on three essential elements:

Knowledge in the mind

Honesty in the heart

Strength in the body

These must be developed continuously and in balance.

Your next goal is not simply to earn your Black Belt—but to elevate your standard, to lead, and to serve. Whether your path leads toward advanced ranks or instruction, our mission is to guide and support you every step of the way.

If you need assistance at any time — ask. That is what leadership begins with.

Black Belt Testing Requirements

All testing must reply that they plan to test, Name they want on their belt, and on the payment plan they want

(Must know before 09/30)

All testing must receive **Master/Head Instructor approval**. (Must have turned in before 12/31)

For All Testing Levels

- ☐ - Signed Black Belt Oath
- ☐ - Student Biography
- ☐ - Black Belt Testing Approval form
- ☐ - A 500-word essay on “How Martial Arts changed your life.”
- ☐ - prepare a 60-second speech based on your essay to be presented at belt testing

Downloadable Documents (1x of Each page needs to be Submitted):

[Student Biography](#) / [Black Belt Oath](#) / [Black Belt Approval form](#)

1st Degree (1st Dan)

- ☐ - Have received your Deputy Black Belt and all required tips and required testing curriculum
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from peers
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from current 1st degree black belts
- **Children School age/After school Program only**
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from your Parents
 - ☐ - 1x Recommendation from a teacher
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from our staff at the Dojang (**After-school Students ONLY**)

2nd Degree (2nd Dan)

- ☐ - Two years of continuous training after receiving black belt and required testing curriculum
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from current 1st degree black belts
- **Children School age/After school Program only**
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from your Parents
 - ☐ - 1x Recommendation from a teacher
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from our staff at the Dojang (**After-school Students ONLY**)

3rd Degree (3rd Dan)

- ☐ - Three years of continuous training after receiving 2nd degree black belt and required testing curriculum
- ☐ - 1x recommendations from current 1st degree black belts
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from current 2nd degree black belt
- **Children School age/After school Program only**
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from your Parents
 - ☐ - 1x Recommendation from a teacher
 - ☐ - 1x recommendation from our staff at the Dojang (**After-school Students ONLY**)

4th Degree (4th Dan)

- ☐ - Four years of continuous training after receiving 3rd degree black belt and required testing curriculum
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 1st degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 2nd degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 3rd degree black belt

5th Degree (5th Dan)

- ☐ - Five years of continuous training after receiving 4th degree black belt and required physical testing
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 1st degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 2nd degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 3rd degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 4th degree black belt

6th-10th Degree

- ☐ - A minimum of 5 years between ranks. Five years of continuous training after receiving your fifth-degree black belt and required physical testing
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 1st degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 2nd degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 3rd degree black belt
- ☐ - 1x recommendation from active 4th degree black belt

Purpose of Testing

Black Belt Testing at MAWE is a **time-honored tradition of excellence**.

It represents:

- A formal demonstration of your skill and growth
- A graduation to your next level of leadership
- An opportunity to share your journey with family and community
- This is not just a test—it is a defining life moment.

Testing Requirements & Submission

All materials must be submitted by The **31st of December**

Essay (email + hard copy) - reception@mawestend.com

Testing fee - \$500.00

Completed paperwork – [Recommendation Submission Link](#) / [Black Belt Document Submission](#)

No applications will be accepted on the day of testing.

Black Belt Examination Structure

Black Belt Exam Part I – Foundational Evaluation

This is the first phase of the exam. Black Belts will be graded on the following curriculum. You must pass this section to continue to the second phase.

1. STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY AND ENDURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR BLACK BELT
2. BASIC KICKS AND KICKING COMBINATIONS
3. SELF DEFENSE DEMONSTRATION
4. PERFORM All FORMS UP TO YOUR LEVEL.

Black Belt Exam Part II – Advanced Application

1. CONTROL SPARRING - (Sparring Gear Required) - You must bring your own gear to testing
2. WEAPON FORM (If required at your level) - You must bring your own weapon to testing
3. SELF DEFENSE WITH MULTIPLE ATTACKERS
4. MULTI-OPPONENT CONTROL SPARRING
5. BOARD BREAKING

Black Belt Exam Part III – Candidate Presentation

Each candidate will report:

“My name is _____, Sir!”

Followed by their 60-second speech, concluding with:

“I am a Dedicated Martial Artist making a difference in my community, Sir!”

Testing Day Logistics

Testing Date: March (Exact date TBD)

Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Arrival: 8:00 AM

Location: TBA

Preparation Guidelines

- Arrive **1 Hour early**.
- Wear a clean MAWE Uniform and belt.
- Bring all required equipment/weapons.
- Submit all materials one month prior.
- Bring **5 supporters (witnesses)** - do your best.
- Plan for a full-day experience.

Testing Fees

1st Dan and Above: \$500 - (This is covered by a payment plan over 3 months)

Includes:

- World Taekwon Do Ji Do Kwan Federation Certification
- MAWE Certification
- River City Hapkido
- Black Belt Uniform & Embroidered Belt
- All Testing materials

⚠ Kukkiwon Certification is available upon request - fees vary.

⚠ World Hapkido Martial Arts Federation Certification is available upon request - fees vary.

⚠ Late submissions incur a \$100 fee - **(Deadline 31st of December)**

⚠ No applications accepted on testing day

Guest Guidelines

We strongly encourage family and friends to attend.

Please inform guests:

- Seating is limited
- Testing times are approximate
- No food or drink in the Dojang
- Plan to attend for most of the day

As always, we are thrilled when you bring guests to testing as we know this encourages you and gives you energy and support as you test for your Black Belt. As you invite family and friends please inform your guests that testing times are approximate and seating is limited, so they may want to come a little early. Fast food restaurants are nearby if they need lunch, but we ask that they do not bring food or drinks into the dojang during testing. The length of testing is hard to determine so please let guests know to plan for the majority of the day.

Black Belt Tea Ceremony

Approximately one month after testing, candidates are formally recognized in a ceremony of honor, transition, and leadership.

Ceremony Overview

Each candidate:

- Prepares a **Heart Gift** for their Instructor
 - Each Black Belt will need to prepare a small gift to have ready for the ceremony. Each candidate, as they are introduced, entrusts a small “heart gift” to one of the guards, as this is to be presented to their Instructor as a small token of affection and appreciation for their guidance and assistance throughout the years.
- Is escorted by the Guard
 - The candidate is then escorted by the guards, who, showing their respect with the candidate, pour a cup of ritualistic tea, the traditional drink of distinction.
- Receives ceremonial tea (symbolizing humility and responsibility)
- Leaves their **Martial Arts Fingerprint** in rice paper
 - The candidate, after drinking the tea, is then invited to place the prints of their punching knuckles into a sheet of ceremonial rice paper, an act which represents the commitment to their training and their fellow black belts. These are their “Martial Arts fingerprints” if you will, a registry of who they are and the remarkable deed they have accomplished, an achievement no one will ever be able to take away from them.
- Signs and enters the legacy of MAWE
 - The candidate then signs and dates their entry, and returns to their place among their peers, enjoying the fulfillment of their first major martial arts goal.
- This represents:
 - Commitment
 - Identity
 - Responsibility
 - You return not just as a student—but as a leader of the Dojang.

Ceremony Expectations

- Mandatory rehearsal (TBD)
- Formal attire (suits/dresses)
- Potluck celebration (sign-up required)
- Guests in business casual attire

Final Message

You have demonstrated the habits and characteristics of a true leader.

This is not the end of your journey.

It is the beginning of your responsibility.

Congratulations. You are becoming what others will follow.



Black Belt Oath

*I commit to the pursuit of Black Belt Excellence in every area of my life.
I will develop the wisdom to recognize what is right, and the courage to
act upon it.*

*I will discipline my mind and body to remain patient, focused, and
positive in the face of adversity.*

*I will walk with humility in my achievements, and show respect,
appreciation, and loyalty to both my seniors and those I lead.*

*I will pursue continuous growth physically, mentally, emotionally, and
spiritually striving each day to become a living example of the
principles of martial arts.*

I will lead by example.

I will protect the standard.

I will be better every day.

Signature

Date



Black Belt Testing Approval Form

Be Better Every Day

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Current Rank: _____

Date of Evaluation: _____

Eligibility Verification

To be considered for Black Belt Testing, all candidates must meet MAWE standards of readiness, consistency, and character.

Instructor Initial Each Requirement:

- ☐ **Attendance Requirement Met**
(Consistent training; minimum standard maintained)
- ☐ **Curriculum Proficiency Demonstrated**
(Forms, techniques, combinations, and application)
- ☐ **Tip Requirements Completed**
(All required tips earned for current rank)
- ☐ **Sparring & Application Readiness**
(Control, timing, composure, and partner safety)
- ☐ **Physical Conditioning Standard Met**
(Endurance, strength, and technical execution)
- ☐ **Black Belt Attitude & Character**
(Respect, humility, leadership, and perseverance)

Instructor Evaluation Notes

(Provide specific feedback on readiness, strengths, and areas of focus)

Approval Status

- ☐ APPROVED for Black Belt Testing
- ☐ NOT YET APPROVED — Continue Development

If Not Yet Approved — Required Focus Areas

Signatures

Instructor Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Master / Chief Instructor Authorization

All Black Belt Candidates must receive final approval from the Master / Head Instructor prior to testing.

- ☐ APPROVED
- ☐ NOT APPROVED AT THIS TIME

Master / Head Instructor Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

MAWE Standard

Black Belt is not a participation award — it is a **demonstration of readiness, leadership, and personal transformation.**

Approval signifies that the student represents the standards, discipline, and spirit of Martial Arts of West End.



STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

(This will be used to speak about you during the Black Belt Tea Ceremony)

Please complete this form thoughtfully.

Your responses will become part of your martial arts record and help document your personal journey and growth.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Current Belt Rank: _____

Date Training Began: _____ Occupation / School: _____

Martial Arts Accomplishments

Please list any significant achievements, awards, certifications, leadership positions, tournament accomplishments, or other recognitions you have earned through martial arts.

Personal Growth

How has your life improved since you began training at MAWE?

Consider areas such as confidence, discipline, leadership, respect, physical fitness, perseverance, relationships, or other personal growth.

Martial Arts Goals

What are your current goals in martial arts, and how do you plan to achieve them?

Include both your short-term and long-term goals, as well as how you hope to continue growing as a martial artist and leader.



Black Belt Tea Ceremony

To mark the completion of their journey and their transition into Black Belt leadership, each candidate is granted the honor of participating in the MAWE Black Belt Tea Ceremony—a tradition of respect, responsibility, and legacy. Each candidate prepares a small, meaningful offering known as a Heart Gift. As they are introduced, this gift is entrusted to a member of the Guard and presented to their Instructor as a symbol of gratitude—for the guidance, discipline, and leadership that made this moment possible.

Escorted by the Guard, the candidate is received with respect. A cup of ceremonial tea is prepared and presented—a symbol of humility, discipline, and the responsibility carried by a Black Belt. The candidate drinks, acknowledging not only what has been achieved, but what is now expected. The candidate is then called forward to leave their mark. Pressing their striking knuckles into ceremonial rice paper, they create their Martial Arts Fingerprint—a permanent record of their commitment, perseverance, and identity within the art. This mark represents who they have become and the standard they now uphold.

The candidate signs and dates their entry, formally taking their place within the legacy of Martial Arts of West End, and returns to stand among their peers—no longer as a student alone, but as a leader within the Dojang. This moment is not the end of training—it is the beginning of responsibility. We ask all in attendance to recognize and support these individuals as they step forward. And to every student watching: continue your journey with purpose, discipline, and commitment—so that one day, you too will stand here.

— Be Better Every Day.