

Lee Brothers Tae Kwon Do, Inc.

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Congratulations on achieving the rank of 2nd Dahn Black Belt! You are now part of a small and elite group of people who have made a commitment to achieve Black Belt excellence.

Let's discuss what it takes to become a 3rd Dahn Black Belt. At Lee Brothers Tae Kwon Do, we take pride in ourselves for promoting only the best of the best to become Black Belts.

“Black Belt is a journey, not a destination.”

Reading the following may overwhelm and confuse you. Please note that the main point is that you must pass 5 pretests in order to qualify for the final 3rd Dahn Black Belt exam. Let's begin.

PRETESTS

Please note the following:

1. You must train a minimum of 2 year at 2nd Dahn level to be eligible for the final 3rd Dahn Black Belt exam.
2. You must undergo and successfully complete 5 pretests before you are eligible to apply for a black belt.
3. All pretests are held on a monthly basis and are always on a Friday evening. Please see the posted schedule for pretest dates at TKD. **WE DO NOT OFFER MAKE UP EXAMS FOR PRETESTS.**
4. There is a fee for pretests. Pretests are \$40.

Making a difference in the community, one person at a time

5. ABOUT THE PRETEST – Your requirements are clearly laid out and when you feel that you are ready and you feel comfortable with the materials required you may apply for the pretest.
6. Once you have successfully completed all 5 of your pretests, you become eligible for the final Black Belt Exam.
7. Please note that we hold Black Belt exams ONLY three times each year. Please inquire at the school for an exact date.
8. Please seek a senior rank to be your mentor/coach in your pursuit of Black Belt. They can assist you with requirements and understanding your qualifications. Having a mentor is the best way to learn and understand your requirements for your pretests and final test.

TESTING FOR 3rd DAHN BLACK BELT

- A. You must first successfully complete all your pretests.
- B. You must turn in the “Notice of intent to apply for Black Belt” form 3 full calendar months before the final exam date. Please check for the registration deadline. **ALL DEADLINES ARE ABSOLUTE.**
- C. There are multiple MANDATORY practice sessions after submitting your intent form. Dates are all posted at the school or on our website. These usually consist of multiple informal and formal meetings and practice sessions.
- D. Your final test will be divided into two parts. Part 1 will be held usually about a week or two before your final test date. Just after your final dress rehearsal, all Black Belt candidates will be required to complete several hours of physical endurance and an attitude checkup training session hosted by senior Black Belts and instructors. You will undergo rigorous strength and endurance tests including sparring matches and a 3-mile run that must be completed in 30 minutes. This Part 1 exam session is NOT open to the public.

Part 2 of your test is your final performance. We encourage you to invite all your family and friends to witness your test.
- E. For high school age and under – You must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to apply for Black Belt at Lee Brothers. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- F. You must meet all the attendance requirements, leadership assistance requirements, event assistance requirements, etc. Please be sure to keep track of your attendance card and be responsible in marking all your participation in all Lee Brothers TKD events.

- G. You must write an essay to be read out loud at the test. It must be a minimum of 1000 words (or 2 pages-- whichever is greater) and typed. Your topic is, "Humility, Honor & Loyalty". This essay should describe importance of Humility, Honor and Loyalty of a Tae Kwon Do Black Belt to the Master, the Academy, the art of Tae Kwon Do and to his/her fellow martial artist. The 1000 words should be on the topic itself-- thank you paragraphs do not count toward the 1000 words.
- H. Parents will also be asked to give testimonials at the end of the final exam on their experiences throughout your journey.
- I. If you fail one or multiple portion of your Belt Exam you will be given an opportunity to retest at a later date. A penalty fee applies for retesting. You must complete all your requirements before you are allowed to graduate and become a 3rd Dahn Black Belt.
- J. The Candle Lighting Ceremony and Black Belt Graduation Ceremony is usually held on a Wednesday evening about 3 months after your final exam. This time is necessary to get your belt ordered and embroidered. Also, students applying for a certificate from Kukkiwon (World TKD Headquarters) need a couple months for the approval process.
- K. The 3rd Dahn Black Belt Exam costs currently \$800.
- L. We ask all parents to stay involved in your child's goals, training, progress, attendance, requirements, etc. Please use the below form (same as attendance card) to keep track of your completion on required items for your next level.

Are you more confused after reading the above? Remember, in a nutshell, you need to pass 5 pretests in order to qualify for the final black belt exam held three times a year. Please keep up with our yearly calendar that lists all our events and deadlines for paperwork, registration, etc. The instructors are glad to answer any questions you might have. Let's work on consistency in your attendance and putting more effort into each class, and we'll sort out the details as we move along. Happy training!