

Rank is it important?

By Clyde Surret



Yes I think it is to show the public that one has acquired knowledge in a certain system, or style.

Whether you are in a belt ranking system or not, people want to know your qualifications.

Most systems give belt rank to show the how the student has grown in skill and knowledge.

Other systems give titles, or rank there students as level 1-5, either way it is still rank.

How much should one pay for rank?

I think that depends on the person and what he or she thinks that it is worth.

Some federations charge \$45.00 for kyu ranks and \$150.00 for Dan rank with an increase of \$25.00 with each Dan Grade. The problem here is that everyone claims to have national or international ranking abilities.

For instance I belong to the USA- Karate Federation with is a National Group, with ties to International Groups, So is my rank recognized by other counties? Well accorded to the USA – Karate federation it is.

But only those groups that recognized the USA- Karate Federation, so was my \$150.00 wasted?

Maybe to some, but I have gained recognition from other groups by being a member of this group.

I have since found other federations that recognize what you have done in the martial arts, and not how much money you have in your pocket. You see I did not have to pay for my Black Belt back in 1991 so why should I have to pay for it now? In 1991 my instructor came to me and told me that I was going to test for shodan, Now don't get me wrong I was honored but I told him that I did not feel I was ready.

But he told me that he would not have set a date and time if I was not ready, so I tested and past for my shodan. I will say it was not easy and I was so tired after that test that I could barely walk off the Dojo floor. I have been told by some that my rank was just dojo rank and not worth much, which in some ways makes me upset.

But I will not dwell there and so let us move on, so is the rank that I have from my old instructor worth less than what I have from my new instructor?

The rank from my old instructor did not cost me anything but my sweat and blood and 3 years of hard work. The rank from my new instructor had a price to, ten years of study and \$150.00 Dollars. So I feel that I earned them both, yes one cost me some money but it also cost me a lot of time as well, I have enjoyed the journey. I have others ranks/titles that were giving to me based on time in grade and they all had a price as well, not money but time and research.

So I guess you are wondering what I am talking about? I wrote this short background about how I earned some of my rank.

All Systems and styles have something to offer everyone if we just look, some look at my early years and say that I did not learn anything about the Martial Arts. I disagree I learned from my early years that no one system has all the answers and neither does one instructor. Yes I do train under someone and I guess I always will as long as he is alive.

If there is something that all my teachers have giving me is the ability to learn and gain knowledge on my own.

I think this is what we as instructors look for when we are teaching, to see that our students have the ability to learn, after that all we have to do is guide them.

As for my rank I am a certified Black Belt, with 20 years of experience as a Martial Artist and over 18 years as an instructor, So does it matter if I am Nationally rank or not?

Personally No. but since one day I want to run my own school It does not hurt.

I am glad that there are a few groups out there like the [BROTHERHOOD of MARTIAL ARTIST](#)

And the [DIVERSIFIED LEAGUE of MARTIAL ARTISTS](#) that look at persons character and not his wallet.

These two Groups have helped me more than any other Federation or Origination that I belong to.

Guess What!! They are FREE!

And they have National and International ties!

Clyde Surrett



Director

Sekkinsen Goshin-Jitsu

Buncombe Combat Karate Association

National Combat Institute