

On a few occasions over my career in teaching karate, I've been asked by a student, "How long does it take to earn a black belt in karate?"

Of course, my answer is usually, "It depends." and the student replies, "Depends on what?"

"It depends on a lot of things, including how often you come to class, how much and how hard you practice on your own at home."

This usually satisfies most students but some are more persistent so I looked over the past few years of student progress at HWKA and came up with this fairly typical progress from white belt to black belts among our karateka (students of karate):

| Kyu | Color | Months of training | Cumulative months |
|--------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 10 | Yellow | 3-6 | |
| 9 | Orange | 3-6 | 6-12 |
| 8 | Blue | 3-6 | 9-18 |
| 7 | Low Green | 3-6 | 12-24 |
| 6 | High Green | 6-8 | 18-30 |
| 5 | Low Purple | 6-8 | 24-38 |
| 4 | High Purple | 6-8 | 30-46 |
| 3 | Low Brown | 6-8 | 36-54 |
| 2 | Mid Brown | 6-8 | 42-62 |
| 1 | High Brown | 6-8 | 48-70 |
| Shodan | 1st Black | 1 year | 60-72 (5 to 6 years) |