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**Buddhai Sawan**  
**Association of**  
**North America**  
Combat Arts of Thailand

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# Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong

## Rankings and Requirements

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<b>Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong</b>	
<b>Rankings and Requirements</b>	<b>1</b>
Revision History	2
Ranking	2
Curriculum	3
Estimated Effort	3
Grade Requirements	5
White Sash Requirements	5
Green Sash Requirements	5
Blue Sash Requirements	6
Red Sash Requirements	6
Silver Sash Requirements	6
Gold Sash - 1st Degree (gold w/1 yellow stripe) Requirements	7
APPENDIX: Related Documents	8
APPENDIX: Color Meaning	9

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## Revision History

This version represents a significant revision over the release v1.0. Greater account of historical documents on ranking were considered and reflection on the existing ranks of ajahns and their promoted students.

## Ranking

Ranking recognizes the accomplishment of an individual within the Buddhai Sawan system of combat arts and grants them certain privileges within the system. Ranking does not automatically confer specific status or role within the system or within an organization.

Grade	Degree	Standing	Rank/Sash	Previous
-		Beginner student (no level)	none	--
1		Junior student	White	Yellow
2		Intermediate student	Green	Yellow/blue
3		Senior student (nak)	Blue	Blue
4		Assistant instructor	Red	Red
5		Instructor (khru)	Silver	Silver

-	1	Senior Instructor	Gold w/1 stripe	Gold
	2		Gold w/2 stripes	Gold
	3		Gold w/3 stripes	Gold
	4	Master Instructor	Gold w/4 stripes	Gold
	5		Gold w/5 stripes	Gold
	6		Gold w/6 stripes	Gold
	7		Gold w/7 stripes	Gold
	8	Grand Master	Gold w/8 stripes	Gold
	9		Gold w/9 stripes	Gold
Royalty	10	Prince of Thailand	Gold w/10 stripes	Gold
	11	King of Thailand	Gold - no stripe	Gold

\* Stripes on gold sash have specific colors - see Appendix below for details.

\*\* Use of Grade or Color Sash is acceptable practice within BSKKna schools and clubs - official certificates will bear only the reference to color (and also degree in case of gold).

## Curriculum

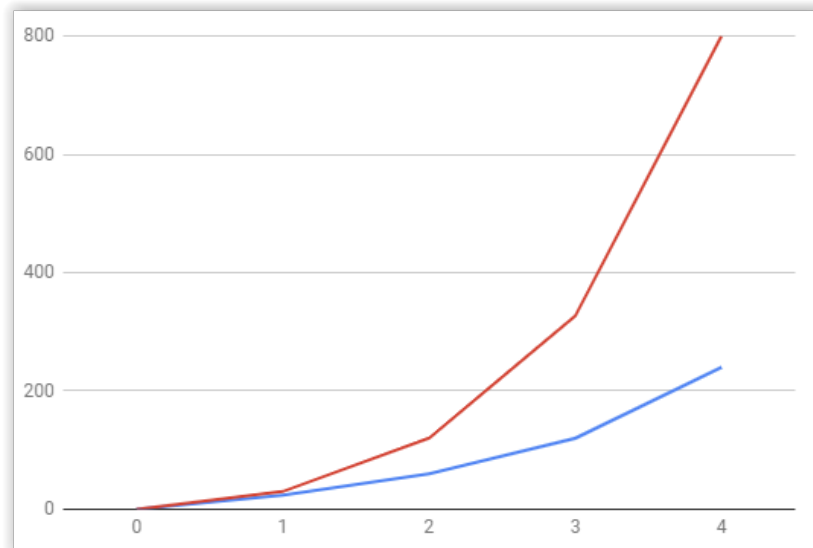
See the separate curriculum document for details on material, techniques, and skills required for each level. A rough outline is provided below for guidance. Actual requirements are up to the testing and promotion authority (e.g. instructor, Council).

## Estimated Effort

Grade/ Sash	Est. Total Hours	Description	Status
1 / White	24-30	Familiarity with double sword and staff; stances and guards, weight drop, blocking, and striking mechanics, four striking lines (8-count), basic principles, basic salutation and weapons handling	Novice (student)
2 / Green	60-120	Knows 7-, 8-, 9- and 3-counts, basic mixing of counts and weapons, able to flow with strikes and blocks, can	Intermediate (student)

		perform four directions for two weapons, basics of empty hand with kicking, basic sparring competence, all basic terminology	
3 / Blue	120-327	Competence on counts and at least one bang, familiar with additional weapon, able to spar two weapons, familiarity with all aspects of the system, able to teach basics to beginners under supervision, fluent on terminology, basics of Muay Boran	Senior (student)
4 / Red	240-800	Satisfies assistant instructor requirements (see testing), basic knowledge of system including all core weapons, all counts, several bangs, teaching competence, adequate expression (fight, ram, bang), empty hand ability. May teach without supervision but not accept payment.	Assistant (instructor)
5 / Silver	480-1500	Satisfies instructor requirements (see testing), capable knowledge of system including all core weapons plus additional others, all counts, several bangs, teaching competence, strong expression (fight, ram, bang), empty hand competence. May teach and accept payment. Able to test and recommend for promotion up to Red Sash.	Instructor
Gold	1st degree	Exceeds instructor requirements (see testing), Solid knowledge of system including most weapons and empty hand, all counts, most bangs, strong teaching, strong expression (fight, ram, bang), empty hand ability. May teach and accept payment. Able to test up to Silver Sash - may recommend for promotion up to Gold Sash at least 1 degree lower.	Senior Instructor
	2nd degree		
	3rd degree		
	4th degree	Significant contribution to the system. Outstanding knowledge of system including most weapons and empty hand, all counts and bangs, strong teaching, strong expression (fight, ram, bang), empty hand ability. May teach and accept payment. Able to test and promote up to Gold Sash at least 1 degree lower.	Master Instructor
	5th degree		
	6th degree		
	7th degree		
	8th degree	Source of the system.	Grandmaster
	9th degree		

\*\* Number of hours is NOT a strict requirement but is a guideline to training effort



Approximate time taken for each grade 1-4;  
minimum blue, maximum red

## Grade Requirements

All requirements represent a minimum set of requirements for that grade. Student aptitude and previous experience will determine actual skill set.

### White Sash Requirements

- 8 and 7 counts as minimum requirements on double sword - novice competence
- Basic Muay Boran or Muay Thai striking
  - Kicks, knees, elbows, punches
- Basic movements of four directions - full ram muay not required
- Basic knowledge of structure, posture, movement
- Basic stepping, weight drop with striking and blocking
- Basic terminology for strikes, counting
- Salute, terms for instructor, students

### Green Sash Requirements

- Intermediate skill in applied core mechanics for striking, blocking, movement
- Intermediate skill with all counts for double sword and one long weapon (spear or staff)
- Basic skill in Wai khru ram muay for a short weapon OR long weapon
- Novice skill in Muay Boran or similar (kicks, knees, elbows, punches, clinch, throws)
- Novice skill in at least one other weapon
- Able to flow short combinations
- Novice skill sparring with at least one weapon

## Blue Sash Requirements

- Intermediate skill with 8,7,3 and 9 counts for double sword, staff, single sword, spear or halberd
- Intermediate skill in Wai khru ram muay for double sword plus basic skill in a second short weapon AND a long weapon
- Intermediate Muay Boran (kicks, knees, elbows, punches, clinch, throws)
- Intermediate skill for choreographed fight (bang) for at least one weapon
- Variations with counts, improvisation
- Novice familiarity shield or mai sowks
- Intermediate skill sparring with at least two weapons

## Red Sash Requirements

- Advanced skill with 8,7,3 and 9 counts for double sword, staff, single sword, spear or halberd
- Advanced skill in wai khru ram muay for double sword plus intermediate skill in a second short weapon AND a long weapon
- Intermediate Muay Boran (kicks, knees, elbows, punches, clinch, throws)
- Advanced skill for choreographed fight (bang) for at least two weapons or advanced skill sparring with at least two weapons
- Variations with counts, improvisation
- Basic skill with shield or mai sowks

## Silver Sash Requirements

- Complete skill with 8,7,3 and 9 counts for double sword, staff, single sword, spear or halberd
- General aptitude for mixed drills, variations in counts, improvisation
- Advanced skill in wai khru ram muay for at least four weapons
- Intermediate Muay Boran (kicks, knees, elbows, punches, clinch, throws)
- Advanced skill for choreographed demo (bang) or sparring in multiple weapons
- Basic variations with counts, improvisation
- Intermediate skill with shield and mai sowks

## Gold Sash - 1st Degree (gold w/1 yellow stripe) Requirements

- Complete skill with all count and variations for most weapons

- General aptitude for improvisation, material development, restructuring
- Advanced skill in wai khru ram muay for at least four weapons
- Intermediate or advanced Muay Boran (kicks, knees, elbows, punches, clinch, throws)
- Expert skill for choreographed demo (bang) or sparring in multiple weapons
- Speciality skill with one of shield, short sword or sabre, short spear

## APPENDIX: Related Documents

See separate documents for:

1. Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong North America (BSKKna) Association
2. Testing Protocol and Ceremony
3. Translation of Existing Rank
4. Logo for BSCKna
5. Certificates for BSCKna
6. USMTA posted description of rank
7. Vince Giordano's description of rank



## APPENDIX: Color Meaning

**White (Grade 1)** is representative of the principles of purity, but it is also considered the colour of knowledge and longevity. It is considered a colour of extremes, associated with the cold of snow and the smelting of metal. White is associated with the Buddha Vairocana. According to Buddhist legend, Buddha's mother, Maya, dreamt of a white elephant touching her right side before Buddha was born. Elephants, associate with rain clouds and fertility, are seen as good fortune, and following that the elephant was white - that meant purity and learnedness for the child. Because of this dream, seeing a white elephants spells remarkable fortune, which holds truth whether in reference to mysticism or not, as they are quite rare. The white elephant is thought to be Buddha descended from the heavens. The current Thai flag, adopted in 1917, claims that white represents the purity of the Buddhist faith.

**Yellow (not used)** is the colour that possesses the highest symbolic quality because of the saffron colour of the monks' robes. Chosen as a symbol of humility and separation from materialistic society. It symbolizes renunciation and desirelessness. Because it is also the colour of the earth, yellow denotes stability and grounded nature. This is also the color of the Thai King. In the context of a beginner, it could be inferred as a student becoming part of something and paying tribute to the King by becoming a practitioner of the art.

**Green (Grade 2)** denotes youth, vigour, action (Karma), and harmony. Because it is the colour at the middle of the spectrum, it also represents balance and is associated visually with the lush trees.

**Blue (Grade 3)** represents tranquility, ascension, the infinite, purity, and healing. Over all, the colour represents wisdom. The current Thai flag, adopted in 1917, claims that blue represents the Thai monarchy. The blue stripe also has a double meaning as it stands in solidarity and honours Thailand's World War I allies, namely Great Britain, France, the United States and Russia, which all have red, white and blue flags.

**Red (Grade 4)** symbolizes life force, preservation, fire, and sacred things or places. Also riddled with duality, fire can represent warmth and comfort, but can also be a destructive force. Red is associated with the Buddha Amitabha. Throughout Tibetan culture, red is a marker of sacred areas. We also see this colour on the garments on the monks. It is believed to be a protective colour. The current Thai flag, adopted in 1917, claims that red is to symbolize the blood of life.

**Silver (Grade 5)** silver is not mentioned within Buddhist or Thai colors. Our assumption is that silver comes before Gold in terms of precious metals or value? Or, since silver may signify purity or share similarities with White as it's in the same realm of color...

**Gold with Buddhist Rainbow (Grade 6)** The main symbolism of gold is either the sun or fire. The sun is one of the purest and most revered energy sources in our solar system and is

regularly recognized in Buddhism. Gold is a universal symbol for knowledge, happiness, purity, enlightenment and freedom. Traits and feelings that everyone desires. The most prominent colour concept in Buddhism is that of the rainbow (body, which is the highest level of meditative achievement wherein the body is transformed into pure light. The rainbow body is the highest achievement other than Nirvana, which is the essential end-goal for Buddhists. Since the "pure light" on the spectrum contains all colors, and is white, to possess a rainbow body means to possess all colors, and to do so means meditating on colors that embody specific teachings.

[Vincent Giordano]

The Buddhai Sawan not only look for techniques or physical attributes but for the interest and energy that you put into it, to learn the whole aspect with respects to the culture, art, vocabulary, ceremony and prayers.

Also one of the very important parts is the spiritual part. Based in my observation the Arjarn will put you or ask you to do things, that in the first moment looks strange but afterwards you will understand. They look at your personality, to see how you are, how much help you are willing to give, how you teach another's students...In other words Who is the person that lives behind your body.

That is the wonderful thing. They qualify you for how much effort you put into it and not how many things you can do. Buddhai Swan Institute is a family, where everybody eats at the same table, sleeps at the same place and works hard at the same time.

\*The training involve 326 hours to be Gold Sash; After that the institution will give you the Gold sash number that they think that you have earned. **Based on your personality, in the number of shows that you been and how many times per year you been in the Institute. Some people just one, and some people every year.\***

Gold Sash 1st Degree:

This belt is gold color with one yellow stripe.

Gold Sash 2nd Degree:

This belt is gold color with 2 stripes, one yellow and on top blue.

Gold Sash 3rd Degree:

This belt is gold color with 3 stripes, one yellow, one blue and one red.

Gold Sash 4th Degree:

This belt is gold color with 4 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and one gold.

Gold sash 5th Degree:

This belt is gold color with 5 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and two gold stripes.

Gold Sash 6th Degree:

This belt is gold color with 6 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and three gold stripes on top.

Gold Sash 7th Degree:

This belt is gold color with 7 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and four gold stripes on top.

Gold Sash 8th Degree. (Master):

This belt is gold color with 8 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and five gold stripes on top.

Gold Sash 9th Degree. (Grand Master):

This belt is gold color with 9 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and six gold stripes on top.

Gold Sash 10th Degree. (Only the Prince of Thailand):

This belt is gold color with 10 stripes, one yellow, one blue, one red and seven gold stripes on top.

Gold Sash 11th Degree. (Only the King of Thailand). This belt is completely gold color without any stripe