

## Merit System

Recognition of students' effort and progress comes in the form of merit badges, which may either be worn on the fencer's jacket or displayed on Olympia Fencing Academy's "Wall of Fame". By completing skill levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold), students earn the right to wear fencing whites and/or team wear. The right to wear level appropriate gear serves as a rite of passage which recognizes progress and stimulates an emotional attachment to achievement. Levels consist of "end of session" examinations, which are intended to build confidence and bolster self-esteem and conclude with a "Coach's Consent to Advance" evaluation, designed to ensure students' proficiency of skills.

