

HAENGJA TRAINING PROGRAM

Musangsa

Zen Master Seung Sahn said:

“Haengja, also novice monk or nun, means no opinion, no idea.

Only follow haengja or novice situation. Only say ‘yes’.

‘Haeng’ 行 means action and ‘ja’ 者 means person. The meaning of haengja is a person who is taking work as their main practice, learning to serve all people who come to the temple while keeping harmony with everybody and dedicating their lives to help all beings.

Haengjas and novice monastics work for the temple or have a Zen center job to learn how a practice community is run.

At Musangsa, one must train as a haengja for one year or more and as a novice for four years or more. Haengja training is finished only when the Guiding Teacher and Director Sunims accept the haengja as ready for novice ordination.

Requirements:

- a person can be accepted for haengja training only after completing at least one 3-month Musangsa Haengwon Program
- has received 5 precepts and a Buddhist name from the KUSZ

All haengjas must follow the guidance of and report to the Guiding Teacher, Seon Won Jang Sunim and Kyo Mu Sunim:

The haengja training program consists of:

1. work
2. formal meditation practice
3. study of the basics of Buddhism
4. learning manners and etiquette of temple life
5. learning basics of Korean language

“Follow situation, then attain true freedom and no hindrance. That is attaining your true self and saving all beings”

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All haengjas are responsible for following the instructions of the Guiding Teacher and Directors Sunims of the temple:

1. Keep a humble mind and supportive attitude as a haengja
2. Follow the temple rules and situation, respect all sunims and lay people; respect fellow haengjas and always do together action with them.
3. Follow daily schedule and instructions from Kyo Mu Sn and supervising Sunims completely. Help with all work required by the temple. Help to provide a clean and harmonious environment that supports everybody who come for practice.
4. Make an individual extra practice plan with consultation and approval of Guiding Teacher and Kyo Mu Sn.
5. Haengja is expected to stay within the community and not to leave temple grounds without Kyo Mu Sn's permission throughout their entire haengja training.
6. Haengjas are not to cultivate interests and hobbies from lay life.
7. Haengja training includes periods of sitting , kneeling, standing and bowing. Haengja has to be able to follow these practicing forms without hindrance.
8. Haengja is responsible for maintaining their correct legal status in terms validity of passport and visa. If serious medical condition develops, it may be necessary for the haengja to go back to his/her country for treatment and care.
9. Teacher may request additional period of training in another temple to give a chance to haengja to experience training in more traditional way and in different cultural context then in Musangsa.
10. Before ordination learn the basic temple etiquette and behavior including correct bowing, sitting and kneeling, clothing, demeanor, handling of foods at meals, chants, KUSZ practice forms and use of the moktak.
11. If Musangsa rules are consistently broken and teachings from Guiding Sunims not followed in a cooperative manner, haengja will be given two formal warnings and third warning from the Guiding Teachers. If the rules concerned are still not followed, the haengja may be asked to leave.

Haengja means person who practice in action, it also means always be ready to attend to any extra work or help, even though it is at the time that you are doing practice, having rest or meal time. Haengja should complete all work requirements first, then do personal extra practice. The main practice of haengja is to put down your idea and concerns with your own situation.

(all the exceptions to the above rules are made at the sole discretion of the Head Guiding Teacher of Musangsa)

I,.....(Dharma
name:.....)

hereby agree to follow all of the above rules as well as the rules of residence at Musangsa. I have made a vow to go through this difficult and demanding training. I understand that this training is helping me to see through and transform my obstructing habits and prepare for monastic life.

Date:

Signature by applicant:

Approved by Teacher: