

# The Monk Major

If there's one thing that's absolutely true about the world, it's that martial arts gives you superpowers. Training as a Monk at Sigil Prep helps you center your mind, strengthen your body, and speak every language. Through a combination of meditation, physical fitness, and moving energy around via sheer concentration, you'll learn to punch through walls, run like the wind, and become completely immune sickness and disease.



The Monk faculty includes practitioners of a number of styles and techniques, so there is no limit to the manner and method of your prowess.

All students must select a particular tradition to guide your training. These come with particular philosophies, but obviously, that's just icing and the real decision here is the manner in which you wish to punch people. And whether or not you can create fire walls. That's a martial arts technique that you won't learn at the strip mall dojo.

# Monk Faculty

## DEAN OF MONKS

### BRADLEY BIGBY (human; he/him)

Descended from one of Oerth's most famous mages, Dean Bigby decided to forego family tradition and enter into the study of inner consciousness, joining a monkly order in his youth, and working his way to master by the time he turned 30.

Although he encourages his students to remain humble and kind, he has an air of bravado about him that becomes very annoying, very quickly. "*Beware the hands of Bigby,*" he'll say. Over and over. We get it.

Also contrary to his classroom mantra of never using your martial skills for personal gain, Bigby spends a good deal of time in underground fight clubs.

He is roughly 5'8" in height, with sandy brown hair and a carefully maintained stubble on his face that never quite grows into a beard.

## CORE FACULTY

### McKAYLA MEPHIS (tiefling;

she/her)

Three time Quadtenial Games champion in Combat Gymnastics, and the most decorated Combat Gymnast in Faerunian history, McKayla is hard to impress. She's seen the best. She's *been* the best. She'll tell you when you're doing well, but she's definitely not free with the hyperbole.

In addition to her teaching duties, she's the coach of the women's gymnastics team, and is quick to show off her own prowess when the opportunity presents itself.

5'2" in height, with deep purple skin and smaller-than-average horns, McKayla generally wears sweat pants, sneakers, and a hoodie, all with her own branding. She watches practices while leaning against a wall, arms crossed. An image of her with her lips pursed in marked indifference made the rounds several

years back, and you can still buy posters of it in the school bookstore.

### PENROD DOBERMAN (lupin;

he/him)

Hailing from Mystara, Professor Doberman is a seasoned instructor, although woefully unprepared. Although he enters into each lecture or practice with confidence and bravado, he spends most of each class flipping through instruction manuals before passing on the information to his students. "*Okay, come at me like you're going to hit me with that pipe... hold on, just a second... I think it's on page 118... mmm, yes. Go ahead.*"

Doberman is a sleek, black-and-tan-furred canine humanoid in a red and yellow karate gi. He tends to talk to himself when he thinks nobody's looking, and he's been caught practicing entire lectures in the stairwell.

### REGINALD BENLOCK (half-orc;

he/him)

Professor Benlock is a former professional pugilist from Greyhawk City, a buff and burly man with a bare chest and tight, form-fitting pants. He speaks in chipper, short sentences and his fight training always starts with a regiment of exercises which includes lifting odd trapezoidal weights and tossing medicine balls around while saying "Hup! Hup!"

He has a large handlebar mustache and well oiled hair parted down the center. He doubles as the school's boxing instructor.

### SUMITOMO ICHIKA (human;

she/her)

Originally from Kozakura in Kara-Tur, Ichika has been living in New Sigil since her own college days at Sigil Prep roughly ten years ago. She is vocally enthusiastic about her many physical interests, from her job instructing

martial arts to her duties as coach of the Sigil Prep rogues-dash team, to various hobbies such as rock climbing, street racing, and parkour. She emphasizes exciting moments with fervent cries of “yes,” “come on!” and “[expletive deleted] yeah!”

She is short but tightly muscled, usually wearing a leather jacket and biker boots, when she isn't wearing roller blades, her preferred method of travel through New Sigil's streets since motorcycles aren't allowed. Although she trains students in hand-to-hand, she is an adept chain fighter and sometimes engages in underground fight clubs.

## SPECIALIZED FACULTY

### AHLOSSA NIGHTSHADE

(human; they/them\*)

*Way of Shadow program coordinator*

Professor Nightshade teaches in an entirely dark classroom, and can barely be seen in the shadows. And even there, students claim to see them in one place, while other students swear they're somewhere else. Their voice is a raspy whisper which manages to carry, and no one agrees where the voice is coming from, even when said students see the Professor's outline in a corner of the class (or at least think they do).

No one is entirely certain what Nightshade looks like, although they almost certainly wear solid black. If anyone's ever seen them, there's no way to know.

*\*Students refer to Professor Nightshade with “they/them” pronouns not because of Nightshade's gender identity, but because nobody actually knows Nightshade's gender identity.*

### DIAPENSIA (uldra; she/her)

*Way of the Four Elements program coordinator*

Teaching mostly the elemental uses of chi, as well as basic meditation classes, Professor Diapensia is possibly the most pacifistic member of the monk faculty, preferring non-violent approaches to problems. She is soft-spoken and

wise, and very calm-tempered. She likes to speak in heavy-handed metaphor.

In addition to her monk courses, she also teaches several language courses, which vary by semester. She herself spoke dozens of languages, even before her monk training taught her literally every language.

Diapensia is such shy of five feet tall with pale blue skin. Although she normally has snow white hair, she shaves her head, and generally wears very light clothing, as much as modesty allows, because she's from an arctic species and it's just very, very hot by her standards all the time.

### RALLO SHIRESBY (halfling; he/him)

*Way of the Open Hand program coordinator*

With a crooked smile and a shaved head, Professor Shiresby looks like the tough kid from a 1930s comedy short. His Brooklyn accent squinty left eye add to it. He's broad shouldered with surprisingly thick biceps, but his stature still makes it easy to underestimate him.

In fact, Shiresby is quite capable in the fighting arts. When teaching, he wears a martial arts gi, although he still wears a whoopee cap and keeps a pack of smokes rolled up in his sleeve.