



Interpreting Certifications in the United States: A Comparison – Updated Nov. 18, 2016

<http://www.ata-divisions.org/ID/interpreting-certification-in-the-united-states-a-comparison-updated>

NBCMI	CCHI	DSHS/LTC	Oregon Judicial Department	Cooperative Personnel Services	Cooperative Personnel Services
<b>National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters</b>	<b>Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters</b>	<b>Department of Social &amp; Health Services/Language Testing and Certification Program Washington State</b>	<b>Oregon Judicial Department</b>	<b>California Administrative Hearing</b>	<b>California Medical</b>
			<b>TYPE OF CERTIFYING BODY</b>		
Private: a division of a trade association (International Medical Interpreters Association)	Private: a vendor neutral nonprofit corporation	Public: a state government agency	Public: a state government agency	Public: a state government agency	Public: a state government agency
		<b>YEAR OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BEGAN</b>			
2012 NCCA accreditation obtained	2012 NCCA accreditation obtained	1995	1993	1979	1992
			<b>CERTIFIED LANGUAGES</b>		
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian	Arabic	Arabic
Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin	Cantonese	Cantonese	Cantonese
Russian	Arabic	Russian	French	Japanese	Japanese
Cantonese		Cantonese	Haitian Creole	Korean	Korean
Korean		Korean	Hmong	Portuguese	Portuguese
Vietnamese		Vietnamese	Ilocano	Spanish	Spanish
		Cambodian (Khmer)	Khmer	Vietnamese	Vietnamese
		Laotian	Korean	Tagalog	Tagalog
			Laotian		
			Mandarin		
			Marshallese		
			Polish		
			Portuguese		
			Russian		
			Somali		
			Spanish		
			Tagalog		
			Turkish		
			Vietnamese		

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			<b>PREREQUISITES</b>		
18 years of age	18 years of age	18 years of age			
High school diploma or equivalent	High school diploma or equivalent	High school diploma or equivalent	not listed	none (see Mandatory Training for Accreditation)	none (see Mandatory Training for Accreditation)
Proof of language proficiency: each certifying body has slightly different requirements.		None	None	None	None
			<b>WRITTEN EXAM</b>		
Medical Terminology & Specialties	Manage an Interpreting Encounter	Interpreter Ethics	English language	Basic Vocabulary (English & LOTE)	General Vocabulary and Word Usage (English & LOTE)
Medical Interpreter Ethics, Standards of Practice & Roles	Healthcare Terminology	Language Proficiency in English & LOTE	Court related terms and usage	Grammar and Word Usage (English & LOTE)	Grammar (English & LOTE)
Cultural Competence	Interact with Other Healthcare Professionals and Prepare for an Interpreting Encounter	Medical Terminology & Procedures in English & LOTE	Ethics and professional conduct.	Reading Comprehension (English & LOTE)	Reading Comprehension (English & LOTE)
Legislation and Regulations	Cultural Responsiveness	Translation (multiple choice format)		English <> LOTE Translation of Medical or other terminology	English <> LOTE Translation of Medical Related vocabulary
				Cognates in both languages	Written Skills Exercise (translation of written statement into and out of language pair)
				Exam is 4 hours	Exam is 4.5 hours in length
			<b>ORAL EXAM</b>		
Consecutive interpreting	Consecutive interpreting	Consecutive interpreting English <> LOTE	Consecutive interpreting	Consecutive Interpreting of simulated hearing with Administrative Law Judge and Attorney and Claimant English <>LOTE	Consecutive Interpreting of simulated medical examination spoken by patient and medical professional
	Simultaneous interpreting		Simultaneous English > LOTE	Simultaneous Interpreting English >LOTE	Simultaneous Interpreting English > LOTE
Sight translation English > LOTE	Sight Translation English > LOTE	Sight translation English <> LOTE (2 passages)	Sight translation English <> LOTE	Sight Translation English <>LOTE	Sight Translation English <>LOTE
	Translation of healthcare documents (multiple choice format)				

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			<b>PASSING RATE</b>				
75%	74%	36-38%	48.54% written	7%	Under 18%		
			18.4% oral				
			100% ethics				
<b>MANDATORY TRAINING FOR ACREDITATION</b>							
40 hours of approved training (pre-requisite)	2 hours of ethics	6 hours of orientation to courts	Knowledge about ethics: being neutral/impartial/not advocating or offering legal counsel. Applicants encouraged to complete formal college level course work and training in both languages and modes of interpretation and must possess a level of expertise in both languages that far exceeds that required for informal bilingual conversation	Knowledge about ethics: being neutral/impartial/not advocating or offering legal counsel. Applicants encouraged to complete formal college level course work and training in both languages and modes of interpretation and must possess a level of expertise in both languages that far exceeds that required for informal bilingual conversation			
						2 hours of new medical interpreter orientation	20 hours of observation
							5 hours of ethics orientation
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE CREDENTIAL</b>							
30 hours of approved training every 5 years	16 hours every 2 years, totaling 32 hours every 4 years	20 hours every 4 years of approved activities of which 1 hour of approved ethics per calendar year, totaling 4 hours of ethics in four years.	25 hours every 3 years of which 5 hours of ethics	None	None		
	20 hours of documented work every two years, totaling 40 hours in 4 years		10 general				
			10 language-specific				
<b>MANDATORY TRAINING COST</b>							
Estimated \$320 - \$800	None	None	Orientation: \$100	None	None		
			Ethics orientation (after passing oral exam): \$50				
			<b>APPLICATION FEE</b>				
\$35	\$35	None		None	None		
			<b>WRITTEN EXAM FEE</b>				
\$175	\$175	\$30	\$65	Total for both exams: \$200	Total for both exams: \$295		
			Ethics Exam (after passing oral): \$50				
			<b>ORAL EXAM FEE</b>				
\$275	\$275	\$45	Oral exam: \$325				
			<b>CREDENTIAL RENEWAL FEE</b>				
\$300	\$300	None	\$150	\$100.00	\$100.00		