

# Oregon Health Care Interpreter State Certification

*A Reference Sheet Compiled by the Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association*

## Requirements and Costs:

1. Target language for interpreting is Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, or Vietnamese
2. Minimum 18 years of age
3. Possess a valid state-issued ID card, driver's license or passport
4. Not on the Medicaid Exclusion List: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>
5. Have at least **60 hours** of formal health care interpreter training by an Oregon Health Authority approved agency
  - **Approved Training Agencies:**
    - Anderson Interpreting Service: Interpreter Training
      - *Program Cost:* **\$675** (includes \$220 of textbooks)
      - *Format:* in person
      - *Target Languages:* language neutral
      - *Website:* <http://www.andersoninterpreting.com/training.htm>
    - The Cross Cultural Health Care Program: Bridging the Gap for Medical Interpreters
      - *Program Cost:* **\$750**
      - *Format:* in person
      - *Target Languages:* language neutral
      - *Website:* <http://xculture.org/medical-interpreter-training/bridging-the-gap-training-program/bridging-the-gap-for-medical-interpreters-course-description/>
    - Cultural Advantage: Online Medical Interpreter Training Program
      - *Program Cost:* **\$850-900**
      - *Format:* online
      - *Target Languages:* contact Marlene Obermeyer 316-217-0198
      - *Website:* <http://cultureadvantage.org/programs/oregon-interpreter-program-60hour/>
    - Gaucha TI: The Community Interpreter
      - *Program Cost:* **\$650-750**
      - *Program Cost: Format:* in person
      - *Target Languages:* language neutral
      - *Website:* <http://gauchati.com/training.php>
    - Interpreter Associates: Medical Interpreter Certificate Course
      - *Program Cost:* **\$695** (plus **\$95** manual, **\$29** shipping and handling)
      - *Format:* online
      - *Target Languages:* language neutral (language specific coach available for last section of program)
      - *Website:* <http://www.interpretersassociates.com/medical-interpreter-certificate-program>
    - Interpreter Certification Center
      - *Program Cost:* not listed
      - *Format:* not listed
      - *Target Languages:* not listed
      - *Website:* <http://www.interpretercertificationcenter.com/>

- Language Line: Advanced Medical Training for Oregon Interpreters
    - *Program Cost:* **\$300** (group discounts available)
    - *Format:* online (to register, contact: Susan Morgan smorgan@languageline.com)
    - *Target Languages:* language neutral
    - *Website:* <http://www.languageline.com/solutions/academy/interpreter-training/medical-training/advanced-medical-training-for-oregon-interpreters/>
  - Linguaculture Connections
    - *Program Cost:* unknown
    - *Format:* unknown
    - *Target Languages:* unknown
    - *Website:* in progress, call 503-330-3136
  - Linguistics Global Associates: Bridging the Gap Training Program
    - *Program Cost:* **\$765**
    - *Format:* in person
    - *Target Languages:* unknown
    - *Website:* [http://www.linguisticsglobalassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/BTG\\_Course-Information\\_2015-2016.pdf](http://www.linguisticsglobalassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/BTG_Course-Information_2015-2016.pdf)
  - Oregon AHEC Bilingual Spanish Health Care Interpreter Training
    - *Program Cost:* **\$1675 (plus \$50 application fee, and other additional fees)**
    - *Format:* in person and online
    - *Target Languages:* Spanish
    - *Website:* <http://www.cocc.edu/spanishhci/>
  - The Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association: Health Care Interpreter Training Program
    - *Program Cost:* **\$320** (plus **\$30** for materials packet, 2 books optional: **\$40+**)
    - *Format:* in person
    - *Target Languages:* language neutral
    - *Website:* <http://training.ohcia.org/>
6. Have minimum **80 hours** of documented interpreting experience as a health care interpreter (provide employer letter or documentation of work/volunteer hours spent exclusively on health care interpreting)
7. Pass written and oral national certification tests from either the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) or the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI).
- **National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI)**
    - Languages offered: Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese
    - Requirements to register for the exam:
      - Minimum 18 years of age
      - High school diploma or GED diploma
      - Successful completion of minimum 40 hours of health care interpreter training
      - *If you have worked as a health care interpreter for at least 1 year in the last 2 years for Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, or Vietnamese, then you can submit proof with a signed letter of employment on company letterhead in place of proof of language proficiency*
        - Make sure letter includes target language, hire date, and dates of employment
        - If you don't meet the work requirement above, then you must submit proof of oral proficiency in English and the target language (described below)

- *Proof of oral proficiency in English by **one** of the following:*
  - Bachelor, Masters, PhD, or any other degree from any US institution of higher education
  - Graduation from any high school in an English language country or from an American School abroad
  - One of the following tests:
    - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): 570+ on paper; 230+ on computer version; 90+ on iBT
      - Cost TOEFL iBT: **\$190**
      - Website: <http://www.ets.org/toefl>
    - ELPT (English Language Proficiency Test): 950+
    - MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment Battery) 80+
    - ECPE (Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English): PASS
    - FCE (First Certificate in English, Level 3): A
    - CAE (Certificate in Advanced English, Level 4): B
    - CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English, Level 5): B
    - IELTS (International English Language Testing System): 7.0
- *Proof of oral proficiency in the target language by **one** of the following:*
  - Bachelors, Masters, PhD, or any other degree from an institution of higher education where the target language is spoken
  - Graduation from a high school of the country where the target language is spoken
  - 24+ semester college credit hours of the target language
- *Proof of oral proficiency in the target language by **one** of the following (cont'd):*
  - ACTFL Orals Exams (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages): Advanced Mid Level
    - Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI): **\$139**
    - Oral Proficiency Interview – Computer (OPIc): **\$70**
      - Offered for limited languages
    - Website: <http://www.languagetesting.com/oral-proficiency-interview-opi-2>
- **Note:** The NBCMI requires that all documents submitted for proof of language proficiency be translated to English; a non-certified translation is acceptable
  - Cost by a translation company: **\$27-\$100+** page
- Costs for NBCMI Exams
  - Registration: **\$35** (free to Oregon residents who are testing in a language other than Spanish)
  - Written Exam: **\$175**
  - Oral Exam: **\$275 (\$235** for Oregon residents who are testing in a language other than Spanish)
- Additional information on NBCMI:
  - Website: <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/>
  - Handbook: <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/sites/default/files/national-board-candidate-handbook.pdf>

- **Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI)**
    - Languages Offered: Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish
    - Requirements to register for the exam:
      - Minimum 18 years of age
      - High school diploma or GED diploma
      - Successful completion of minimum 40 hours of health care interpreter training
      - Language proficiency in English and target language (provision of evidence of proficiency is not required)
    - Costs for CCHI Exams
      - Registration: **\$15**
      - CoreCHI written exam: **\$155**
      - CHI oral exam: **\$275**
    - Additional information on CCHI:
      - Website: <http://www.cchicertification.org/>
      - Handbook: <http://www.cchicertification.org/images/pdfs/candidatehandbook.pdf>
8. Make out a check for **\$55** payable to: OHA/OEI Health Care Interpreter Program
9. Review the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Equity and Inclusion's website on specific instructions for completing the application for certification as a health care interpreter (HCI) in the state of Oregon:
- <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/hci-certification.aspx>
  - **Note:** The Office of Equity and Inclusion hosts monthly HCI application review sessions to help with completing the application process; visit the website link above for more information

**This reference sheet was last updated in January 2016; all information is subject to change.**

**The Oregon Health Authority's Office of Equity and Inclusion has approved this document.**

*Information courtesy of the Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association*  
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