



## **Bridging the Gap™ Frequently Asked Questions**

***Thank you for reading over this Q & A as you prepare to study healthcare interpreting.***

### **Who should take Bridging the Gap™?**

The course offers 40 hours of healthcare interpreter training for the beginning and intermediate interpreter who wants to work in the field of healthcare. The field includes working in a hospital, a clinic, a dental office, a nursing home, or in the health office of a school. These are just a few examples. If you are interested in working in social services, education, a legal office or municipal court, JVS offers another course in community interpreting, The Community Interpreter™.

### **What do I learn in the Bridging the Gap™ course?**

The Bridging the Gap™ course objectives are: 1) to be able to apply the Interpreter's Code of Ethics, 2) to be able to demonstrate the appropriate roles of an interpreter; 3) to be able to demonstrate the modes of interpreting; 4) to be able to demonstrate cultural competency practices; and 5) to be able to identify medical terms. The course is presented by Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and taught by Raul O. Guerrero. JVS has the license to provide this course through the Cross Cultural Health Care Program of Seattle.

### **What kind of certificate do I receive?**

You will earn a Certificate of Completion in Bridging the Gap™ once you have passed the final exam and have attended all the classes. This is an excellent credential for an entry-level interpreter; it is recognized by many health care providers in our region. However, it is not certification. You can still work as an interpreter without national certification.

### **How can I become a nationally certified healthcare interpreter?**

The 40 hours of Bridging the Gap™ training are a prerequisite to apply for National Health Care Interpreter Certification through the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters. This is a separate application you would make in the future through CCHI. More info can be found at <https://cchicertification.org/>.

### **What is the Bridging the Gap™ application process?**

Please submit your application packet to [canders@jvskc.org](mailto:canders@jvskc.org). The packet includes: 1) Bridging the Gap short application; 2) Bridging the Gap pretest. You will receive a phone call from Catherine Anderson who will ask you follow-up questions about your application and

answer any questions you have about the course. At that time she will also talk to you about language proficiency requirements, listed below.

### **What are the fees for the course?**

The course fee is \$500. The fee covers books and instruction. A down payment of \$200 to hold your place in the class will be requested once your interview is completed and your application has been approved. This payment cannot be refunded. However, if you do not score well enough in the language proficiency test, the payment will be refunded. You will receive a textbook in Bridging the Gap™ and a glossary of medical terms in English and the target language (i.e., English/Spanish, English/Somali).

### **How is an application approved?**

A candidate must have a high school diploma (from another country is fine). A GED or HiSet is also accepted. The candidate must be fluent in English and at least one other language. This is determined by answers to questions in the application, and language proficiency screening and testing, if required. Applications are expected to be completed fully, to be accurate, and neat.

### **How is language proficiency established?**

Language proficiency is established through the following methods:

- 1) Language proficiency is determined by how you learned both English and your native language. We look at the language used for study in the high school from which you graduated and the number of years worked professionally in a language. Please note these examples:

Example #1, high school qualification: If you grew up speaking Spanish and English, and graduated from an English-speaking high school where all your courses were in English, you qualify in English. You then would need to take a Spanish language proficiency test to interpret as a Spanish interpreter. The reverse is also true: Spanish-speaking high school, means you qualify in Spanish, but need a test in English.

Example #2, professional work experience qualification: If you graduated from high school in English, but worked in a Latin American country for 5 years where you spoke Spanish professionally, you would qualify for Spanish. The reverse is also true: Spanish-speaking high school and 5 years of professional work in the U.S. using English would qualify you for both languages.

OR

- 2) A language proficiency score in the Advanced range, tested through Language Testing International. If you do not score in the Advanced range, you will need to focus on improving your language proficiency.

Candidates who fulfill the first language proficiency description of requirements will not need to take the language proficiency test for Bridging the Gap™, but may need a language proficiency score (Advanced Mid) to go forward with testing if they want to become a nationally certified interpreter.

The cost for the language proficiency test through Language Testing International is \$100. Catherine Anderson will explain what you need to do to register for the test.

All the information above is explained in the application interview.

### **What are the course requirements?**

Once accepted to the class, you will be expected to attend all classes and participate fully. You will also need to pass a final exam on the last day of class. A certificate of completion is only awarded students who attend all course days, pass the final exam and are paid in full. We cannot offer make-up classes. Emergencies are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you. We look forward to receiving your application.