



The Community Interpreter® International

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for reading this Q & A over as you prepare for community interpreter training.

Who should take The Community Interpreter® International course?

The course offers 40 hours of community interpreter training for the beginning and intermediate interpreter who wants to work in the field of social services, education or municipal court interpreting. This includes working in agencies serving the limited-English-proficient community such as JVS, schools, government agencies, other refugee resettlement agencies, Legal Aid of Western Missouri, or other legal services. These are just a few examples. If you are interested in working in healthcare, JVS offers the Bridging the Gap™ healthcare interpreter training that covers among many other things, medical terminology. This course, as provided by JVS, will not offer medical terminology.

What do I learn in The Community Interpreter® International course?

Through extensive role plays and examples, this hands-on course provides 1) training in the nine core ethical principles of community interpreting; 2) practice in interpreting protocols and skills, including memory skills, positioning, using “I,” the 3 modes of interpreting and more; 3) strategic mediation; 4) professional identity, including managing time and business procedures; 5) the role of the interpreter in the community, including self-care and professional development. The course is presented by Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and taught by Melanie Allmayer, CHI™Spanish. JVS has the license to provide this course through Cross-Cultural Communications, LLC.

What kind of certificate do I receive?

You will earn a Certificate of Completion in The Community Interpreter® 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 agencies 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?

At this time, JVS’s The Community Interpreter® course is mainly focused on community interpreting, and does not offer medical terminology training. For those who want to become nationally certified healthcare interpreters, ready to work in hospitals and clinics, we recommend Bridging the Gap™. The Bridging the Gap™ certificate of completion is 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 Community Interpreter® application process?

Please submit your application packet to canders@jyskc.org.

The packet includes: 1) Application and 2) Pretest-Reading screen. You will receive a phone call from Catherine Anderson who will ask you follow-up questions about your application and answer any questions you may 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 that covers 2 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.

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, to fulfill the language proficiency requirement:

- 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.

The cost for the language proficiency test through Language Testing International is approximately \$100 for most languages, but subject to change. Some language tests are more expensive than others. 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.