

# Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program Requirements for Spoken Languages

Oregon's Health Care Interpreter Program includes two levels of credentialing (qualification and certification).

A qualified or certified health care interpreter must meet all the requirements listed below and provide the supporting documentation. See [OHA 2002](#) for renewal requirements. See [Oregon Qualification and Certification for Sign Language Interpreters \(200-476050\)](#) for requirements. For Languages of Lesser Diffusion (LLD), see the [Speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion and English Language](#) or [Speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion and Non-English Language](#) (LLD) requirements. Please see below for more details about what to include in your application.

## Qualification

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
  - ♦ Include a copy of a valid driver's license, passport or other valid government-issued identification.
- Education: Must have high school diploma (or GED equivalent) or higher.
- Must not be in the Medicaid Exclusion Database: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>.
- **Must have at least 60 hours of formal health care interpreter training.**
  - ♦ Include proof of successful completion of 60 hours of training from an OHA-approved HCI [training program](#).
- Must have language proficiency **in English and the target language** (see next pages for more information). Include:
  - ♦ Proof of meeting the minimum required language proficiency from an approved testing center
  - ♦ **or** demonstration of having met equivalent language proficiency requirements (see next pages)

## Certification (optional)

### All requirements from the "Qualification" column and

- Proof of passing a certification test from one of the following:
  - ♦ [National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters \(NBCMI\)](#)
  - ♦ [Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters](#)
  - ♦ [National Center for State Courts Court Interpreter Oral Examination](#)
  - ♦ [Oregon Court Interpreter Certification](#)
  - ♦ [Federal Court Interpreter Certification exams](#)

### Valid for four years

**Certification is optional.** The oral certification test is available in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Korean, Arabic and Vietnamese. Certification is also available in Sign language.

**Valid for four years**

**Please apply directly through the [Health Care Interpreter Workforce Portal](#).**

**Questions?** Contact the Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program:  
[HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov) | 971-673-3378 | [www.oregon.gov/oha/oei](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei)

## Language proficiency requirements for HCI qualification and certification

### Relay and languages of lesser diffusion

See [the Alternate Proof of Language Proficiency page](#) for alternate proof options for relay interpretation or languages of lesser diffusion.

### Approved language proficiency tests

Oral proficiency in both English and the non-English language (L2) may be demonstrated by passing any of the exams listed below (must not be expired):

- [Language Line University](#) – Level 3+ or above (Interagency Language Roundtable [ILR]) equivalent.
- [Language Testing International](#) – Testing is based on American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessment. Advanced mid-level or above. There is an optional phone interpreter (OPI). You can use either the telephone or computer recording version of the OPI.
- [Alta Language Services](#) – Testing, 8 or above

Language proficiency for English and the non-English language can be demonstrated by showing proof of passing the [National Center for State Courts Court Interpreter Oral Examination](#).

### English language proficiency

One of the following may demonstrate oral proficiency in English (for languages of lesser diffusion, see [the Alternate Proof of Language Proficiency page](#)):

- Bachelor, masters, doctorate or any other degree from any U.S. institution of higher education.
- Graduation from any high school, or completion of a GED, in an English language speaking country where English is the primary language of instruction.
- Graduation from a higher education institution abroad where English is the primary language of instruction.
- One of the following tests (subject to change). Test results must be **no more than four years old** to be considered valid.

- ◆ Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): 570+ on paper; 230+ on computer version; 90 on iBT
- ◆ Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), Level 4: B
- ◆ Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Level 5: B
- ◆ International English Language Testing System (IELTS): 7.0+
- ◆ Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR): 2+
- ◆ Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
- ◆ Oral Proficiency Interview at the **advanced mid-level** on the ACTFL scale

## Target oral language proficiency

One of the following may demonstrate oral proficiency in the non-English language:

- Bachelor, masters, doctorate or any other degree from an institution of higher education where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- Graduation from high school in a country where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- One of the following tests (subject to change). Test results must be **no more than four years old** to be considered valid.
  - ◆ Interagency Language Round Table (ILR): 2+ from federal government testing agencies
  - ◆ Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
  - ◆ Oral Proficiency Interview at the advanced mid-level on the ACTFL scale.

For assistance with your application and [portal](#) assistance, please call 971-673-3378 or email [HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Health Care Interpreter Program, Equity and Inclusion Division, at 971-673-3378 or email [HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov). We accept all relay calls.

### Equity and Inclusion Division

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