

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)

Valid for four years

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.

Questions? Contact the Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program:
HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov | 971-673-3378 | 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.

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. We accept all relay calls.

Equity and Inclusion Division

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