

Missouri Foreign Language Court Interpreter Program

Events Scheduled
January 1 - December 31, 2020

**Promoting equal access to
justice in courts by eliminating
language barriers for persons
with limited English proficiency.**

In order for Missouri's courts to provide qualified interpreters, OSCA manages a certification program for persons with a native-like mastery of English and a second language that includes information about the interpreting profession, the code of professional responsibility and modes of interpreting. Successful candidates must continue self study before taking the written test and oral exams.

Do you have the skills necessary to be a professional court interpreter?

1. Possess educated, native-like mastery of *both* English and a second language;
2. Display wide general knowledge, comparable to two years of college or university education; and
3. Perform the three modes of court interpreting – sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous.

If numbers 1 & 2 describe you and you are willing to develop the skills for number 3, court interpreting may be for you.

What materials are used for training and testing?

Missouri belongs to the **Council of Language Access Coordinators** through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Our program is based on their model, using their materials and recommended practices.

Where do I find more information about becoming an interpreter, the tests, and the Council?

Our website (www.courts.mo.gov) has information under Rules & Resources. The NCSC website (www.ncsc.org) has information and resources under Education & Careers.

Do I have to go through all three phases if I teach language, already interpret and took several years of language training?

Yes, everyone working toward certification must participate in all three phases.

Is there reciprocity between members of the Council?

Missouri accepts completion of most members' orientation and passing NCSC test scores and proof of federal certification.

What is an abbreviated exam that is offered for some languages?

The exam does not test all modes of interpreting and certification is not available for those language.

Is there anything else I can do if there is an abbreviated or no test in my language set?

After completing Phases 1 and 2, and then passing an oral proficiency interview (OPI) at the highest possible rating, you will be given a "Registered" status.

How much work is there?

It varies by where you are located, where you are willing to travel and your language set. As an independent contractor, the courts contact interpreters on an "as needed" basis. There are no staff interpreters in Missouri and no guarantee of work.

How will anyone know when I'm certified or registered and how to contact me?

Contact information for certified and registered interpreters is shared with the courts and posted on our intranet site as well as our website.

To be added to the notification list for upcoming certification events, please send your contact information (including your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and what language(s) you speak) to the following email address or call the number listed.

Office of State Courts Administrator
Access to Justice Program
P.O. Box 104480
Jefferson City, MO 65110
(573) 522-2616
www.courts.mo.gov
access2justice@courts.mo.gov

PHASE 1: ORIENTATION

This phase must be completed before any other part of the program. The two day workshop is open to any person at least 18 years of age with a *native-like mastery of English and a second language*. This workshop includes instruction regarding the modes of interpreting used in court, the interpreter's role and code of professional responsibility, legal terminology and court protocol. Candidates are expected to continue self-study before taking the written and oral exams. **Fee - \$260.00**

DATES OFFERED

March 7-8, 2020

Metropolitan Community College-Maple Woods
Kansas City, MO

Registration & payment deadline February 7, 2020

June 27-28, 2020

Webster University
Webster Groves, MO

CANCELLED

Registration & payment deadline May 29, 2020

August 22-23, 2020

Missouri State University
Springfield, MO

CANCELLED

Registration & payment deadline July 24, 2020

October 17-18, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline September 18, 2020

- Travel expenses, lodging arrangements and meals are the responsibility of the attendee.
- Guests/children are not allowed.
- Recording classes and tests are not permitted.
- Events are subject to cancellation or fee changes due to budgetary constraints or low enrollment.

PHASE 2: WRITTEN EXAM

After attending orientation in full, candidates may register to take the written test. The multiple choice portion covers English proficiency, legal terms, court protocol, and ethical situations and must be passed with 80% or greater. The translation portion is from English to a second language and is graded on a pass/not pass rating. **The written and oral exams cannot be taken the same weekend.**

Fee Schedule

\$25
Spanish

\$50
Bosnian
Cantonese
Korean
Mandarin
Portuguese

\$75
Arabic
French
Russian
Vietnamese

Fees listed above may vary. Fees for languages not listed will be determined upon request.

DATES OFFERED

April 4, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

CANCELLED

Registration & payment deadline March 6, 2020

August 1, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline July 1, 2020

September 26, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline September 18, 2020

November 7, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline October 30, 2020

PHASE 3: ORAL EXAM

Candidates who have passed the written test may take the 1-hour oral exam testing their skill in sight translation, consecutive, and simultaneous interpreting. Each part of this exam must be passed with 70% or greater for a candidate to receive certification. **The written and oral exams cannot be taken the same weekend.**

Fee Schedule

\$200
Spanish

\$225
French
Portuguese

\$300
Arabic
Bosnian
Korean
Russian

\$350
Mandarin
Vietnamese

Fees listed above may vary. Fees for languages not listed will be determined upon request.

Full oral exams are currently available in Arabic, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Filipino (Tagalog) and Vietnamese. Abbreviated exams are available in Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and Turkish.

If you speak a language that is not listed above, you may be eligible to take an oral proficiency interview. You must receive the highest score possible to be listed as "Registered."

DATES OFFERED

April 4, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

CANCELLED

Registration & payment deadline March 6, 2020

July 25, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline June 26, 2020

September 19, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline August 31, 2020

November 14, 2020

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline October 16, 2020