

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Health Care Interpreter Training Program

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## What is the Health Care Interpreter Training course?

The Health Care Interpreter training is a 64-hour blended course offered by Oregon State University. This course provides individuals who are proficient in English and Spanish the formal training needed to apply to become an Oregon qualified or certified interpreter. This 8-week course requires online, virtual, *and* in-person attendance. Students *must* attend all virtual and in-person sessions in order to complete the course. In person sessions will take place in either Umatilla or Malheur County depending on the quarter.

This program is taught by instructors Felicity Ratway and Amanda Kay-Wheeler and is recognized as one of the [Oregon Health Authority's Approved Health Care Interpreter \(HCI\) Training Program](#).

## How is the course structured?

The Health Care Interpreter training program is a 64-hour course that takes place over 8 weeks. Every Friday a new module will be released to students. Each module is approximately 8 hours of coursework, which typically includes 6 hours of online, self-paced work and 2 hours of live classroom style learning. The live classroom activities will occur either online or in person. Please refer to the course schedule for exact dates and times of the live sessions. Please note that modules 4 and 5 will require four hours of in person time as students are practicing consecutive and simultaneous interpretation delivery.

For the online work, students will utilize OSU's online platform, Canvas, to complete submit online assignments. OSU will provide an overview of the online platform during the first week of class.

## What will I learn in the course?

During the eight weeks, the course will cover:

- **Week 1** - Introduction to Interpreting
- **Week 2** - Interpreting in the Health Care Setting
- **Week 3** - Ethics
- **Week 4** - Interpreting Skills (interpreting in consecutive mode)
- **Week 5** - Interpreting Skills (interpreting in simultaneous mode)
- **Week 6** - Memory for Interpreters
- **Week 7** - Notetaking
- **Week 8** - Next Steps: Working as a Health Care Interpreter

A textbook, *Interpreter's Rx*, and accompanying USB with audio recordings is included as part of the tuition cost.

## What are the prerequisites for the course?

Before entering the course, students must have:

- A high school diploma or GED.
- Proof of language proficiency in **both** English and Spanish.

Proficiency can be demonstrated through education (providing a copy of a diploma from an institution where instruction was provided in English or Spanish) or a proficiency test taken within the last three years.

Example - A student may provide:

- A copy of their high school diploma from a school where instruction was provided in English. This would satisfy the English requirement.
- Passing results of a Spanish proficiency test taken within the last three years. This would satisfy the Spanish requirement.

Examples of acceptable [proof of language proficiency can be found here.](#)

## I need to take a proficiency test. How do I do that?

There are two companies that can administer proficiency tests: [LanguageLine Solutions](#) and [Language Testing International](#). Students who would like to take the test on their own behalf can schedule with one of these two companies. Please note that students who arrange their own test will be responsible for the cost of the test.

Alternatively, OSU has partnered with [Language Testing International](#) to administer language proficiency tests to students who have enrolled in the course. One proficiency test in English **or** Spanish is included at no cost to students as part of the tuition.

**Please note if students do not pass the proficiency test, they will not be able to retest for 90 days and will be deferred to a later course once proficiency is established.** It is strongly encouraged that students ensure they have access to a computer with reliable camera, mic, and internet connection prior to signing up for the test.

### What is the cost of the course?

The cost for the course and the textbook is \$912. Applicants living in an Eastern Oregon county (Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, or Wheeler) will receive a discounted rate of \$630.

During the first year of the program, EOCCO is offering full (100%) scholarships to those who qualify. See below for more information.

### How do I apply for a scholarship?

At this time, students who are located in Eastern Oregon are welcome to apply for a scholarship. A scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, textbook, and proficiency test(s) if needed. Applicants will need to attach all supporting documents to the application (i.e., letters of support, evidence of proficiency, etc.). If you would like to take a proficiency test as part of the course there is a place to note this, otherwise applications that do not include the required documents will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed until the required documents are received.

In addition to evidence of proficiency the following documents are required to be considered for a scholarship:

For applicants who are employed by a health care provider, they need to submit a letter of support from a member of leadership at their clinic/system, showing their support for the scholarship applicant. This is done to make sure the applicant is in good standing and that the employer will support the applicant's participation in the program.

If the applicant is NOT employed by a contracted provider, they will need to submit the following:

- A letter explaining why they are interested in the Health Care Program and should receive the scholarship
- Current resume
- 1 letter of recommendation

To apply for a scholarship please visit: [EOCCO Health Care Interpreter Scholarship application](#)

Please note that scholarships are available on a first come first served basis.

### I was waitlisted. What happens next?

Students who are waitlisted may still be admitted into the course if another student forfeits their spot or does not meet the proficiency requirements. Students will be contacted in the order their completed

application was received. If a student is waitlisted and does not receive a spot in the current cohort they will be offered a seat in a future class.

### When does registration open?

Registration for the spring course will be from February 6-March 3, 2023. Given the limited number of seats students are encouraged to apply early to be considered for a scholarship.

### After completing this course will I be an Oregon qualified or certified health care interpreter?

Students who complete this course will still need to apply to the state of Oregon to become a qualified or certified interpreter. However, the course is approved to meet the Oregon Health Authority's 60-hour training requirement. The training and proficiency testing will satisfy the bulk of the requirements. To become certified with the Oregon Health Authority, passing a national certification exam is also required. The Oregon Health Authority accepts either the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) or the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI). A national exam is not required to become a qualified interpreter with the Oregon Health Authority.

For more information see the [Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program Requirements \(state.or.us\)](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ohca/interpreter/requirements).

### Who can I contact for additional information?

If you have additional questions please contact [EOCCOmetrics@modahealth.com](mailto:EOCCOmetrics@modahealth.com). Thank you.

