

# Administrative Office of the Courts

Supreme Court of New Mexico

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## New Mexico Court Interpreter Certification Testing Policies

(As approved by the Court Interpreter Advisory Committee 3/12/10; rev 5/14/2010; rev 3/8/13)

Step 1: All candidates must complete the AOC/NMCLA *Introduction to Court Interpreting* online class prior to taking the written examination.

Step 2: Certification candidates must receive a passing score of 80% on the Consortium Written Exam prior to be invited to sit for the Oral Certification Examinations.

Candidates must wait six months prior to retaking the written examination-version 2 if they fail to pass with a score of 80% or better.

Candidates who pass the Written Examination may move forward to the oral examinations at any time within a three year period. If they do not begin the oral examination process within three years of passing the written exam, they must start the process over beginning with the orientation and modes of interpreting workshops (step 1).

### **Note: Languages With No NCSC Certification Examinations, skip to Addendum 1**

Step 3: Certification candidates must receive a passing score of 70% on the Simultaneous Examination prior to being invited to sit for the Consecutive and Sight Translation Examinations.

Candidates who score below 55% on the simultaneous exam, prior to registering to retake the examination, must complete, at their own expense, the NMCLA *Introduction to Court Interpreting* (if they have not previously taken it ) or Simultaneous Interpreting on-line workshops or another comparable training, as approved by AOC. Candidates may choose self-study, but will be required to pay an additional \$100.00 plus the published fee for the re-take of the simultaneous exam.

Candidates who pass the Simultaneous Examination must sit for the Consecutive and Sight Translation Examinations within twelve months

of having the Simultaneous Examination. If they fail to initiate Step 3 of the certification process within twelve months, they will be required to retake the Simultaneous Examination.

Step 4: Certification candidates must receive a passing score of 70% on the Consecutive Interpreting Examination and both sections of the Sight Translation Examination.

Candidates who pass either Sight Translation or Consecutive Interpreting, but not both examinations, which are given together, must retake both Sight Translation and Consecutive.

Step 5: Once having passed all four exams, Steps 2-4, interpreters must comply with the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts Post Certification Training, application, and background check requirements prior to being included in the NM Directory of Certified Court Interpreters.

### **Addendum 1:**

Candidates who successfully, according to standards set by the New Mexico Court Interpreter Advisory Committee, complete the OPI in English and their other language and who have also completed NM Court Interpreter Orientation and passed the Consortium written exam be considered certified by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Court, be included in the Directory of Certified Court Interpreters, and receive the certified rate of pay.

#### Standards

##### Justice System Interpreter Qualification

Individuals testing via the Oral Proficiency Interviews must receive at minimum Advanced High in English and Advanced High in their other language in order to be qualified as Justice System Interpreters by the New Mexico Court Interpreter Program.

##### Court Certification Qualification

Individuals testing via the Oral Proficiency Interviews must receive Superior Scores on both English and their other language in order to have "passed" the examinations at the level required for certification by the New Mexico Court Interpreter Program.

### **Addendum 2:**

- Candidates may take the oral examinations twice in a ten-month period, assuming they are taking a different version of the examination. Candidates who fail an examination for which there is no alternate version must wait a full twelve months prior to retaking the oral examination.
- If a candidate scores 65% or better, but fails to pass an oral examination, they may request re-rating of the examination at their expense. The request for re-rating must be made within 30 days of the candidate's receipt of their exam scores.