



new mexico center  
for language access

MULTILINGUAL INTERPRETING  
AND TRANSLATION  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS



# Newsletter

Issue XI



## Fall Session



### Certificate Program

## JUSTICE SYSTEM INTERPRETING



This program is designed to train interpreters who work throughout the justice system. Individuals interested in pursuing court interpreting certification are ideal candidates for this program.

**Justice System Interpreter is a category recognized by the NM Judiciary**

Justice System Interpreters are included in the Registry of Justice System Interpreters maintained by the NM Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and covered by the Supreme Court’s established fee schedule and continuing education and background check requirements.

<b>Introduction to NMCLA &amp; Online Learning</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Fundamentals of Translation &amp; Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	<b>Ethics &amp; Best Practices</b> 4 weeks
	<b>Criminal &amp; Procedure Law Terminology</b> 4 weeks
<b>Justice System Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	
<p><b>Internship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face session at UNM School of Law (intensive practice – simultaneous practice examination – mini mock trial – interpreting for jurors/team interpreting – language specific session)</li> <li>• Interpreter experience at <b>UNM Law Clinics</b></li> <li>• Interpreter experience at <b>UNM School of Law Mock Trials</b></li> <li>• Online work and test preparation</li> </ul>	
<b>Final Examinations*</b>	

- Benefits**
- Certificate issued by UNM - Los Alamos
  - Certificate recognized by the NM Judiciary
  - Flexible and accessible schedule
  - Multilingual training
  - Experience through an internship
  - Financial aid for those who qualify

**The program consists of a total of 20 weeks. With the exception of the internship, all courses for this certificate program are offered online.**

**\*JSI Final Examination Requirements**

NMCLA uses the Consortium for the State Courts Interpreter Certification Examination. Students who pass their written examination and score between 55% and 69% in their oral examination become Justice System Interpreters and are added to the registry of Justice System Interpreters, which is available to potential employers. Students who score 70% and above become NM certified interpreters.



Certificate Program

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# MEDICAL INTERPRETING

This program is designed to train interpreters who facilitate linguistic and cultural communication between patients and healthcare providers at doctors' offices, hospitals, emergency rooms, and other medical facilities. Experienced medical interpreters, physicians and other healthcare providers have designed this interdisciplinary curriculum. The program also includes a clinical internship.

**40-hour Internship at UNM Hospitals**

Upon completion of the online classes, students are assigned to the Interpreter Language Services Department at UNM Hospital. Students gain experience in face-to-face, telephonic and video interpreting at the UNMH clinics and E.R.

<b>Introduction to NMCLA &amp; Online Learning</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Fundamentals of Translation &amp; Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	<b>Ethics &amp; Best Practices</b> 4 weeks
<b>Medical Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	
<b>Internship</b> 40 hours	
<b>Orientation</b> (1hr) <b>Operations Block</b> (4 hrs) <b>Interpreter Skills Block</b> (36 hrs) -Face-to-face interpreting -Video interpreting -Telephonic interpreting	
<b>Final Examination</b>	

- Benefits**

  - Certificate issued by UNM - Los Alamos
  - Flexible schedule
  - Classes taught by M.D. and medical interpreters
  - Multilingual training
  - Internship at UNM Hospital
  - Financial aid for those who qualify

**The program consists of a total of 20 weeks. With the exception of the internship, all courses for this certificate program are offered online.**





## Certificate Program



# JUSTICE SYSTEM LANGUAGE ACCESS SPECIALIST

This program is designed to train bilingual employees who already work or would like to work as informal or community interpreters throughout the justice system. Bilinguals within the judiciary are ideal candidates for this program. Attorneys, and experienced certified court interpreters and translators with a variety of backgrounds have designed this interdisciplinary curriculum.

**Justice System Language Access Specialist is a category recognized by the NM Judiciary**

<b>Introduction to NMCLA &amp; Online Learning</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Fundamentals of Translation &amp; Interpreting</b> 8 weeks	<b>Ethics &amp; Best Practices</b> 4 weeks
	<b>Criminal &amp; Procedure Law Terminology</b> 4 weeks
<b>Justice System Interpreting</b> 4 weeks	
<b>Final Examinations*</b>	

### Benefits

- Certificate issued by UNM - Los Alamos
- Flexible schedule
- Multilingual training
- Financial aid for those who qualify
- JEC Scholarships for court employees
- Potential for employer-awarded scholarships and educational leave.

The program consists of a total of 16 weeks. All courses for this certificate program are offered online.



**Classes begin on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Application Deadline is September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**





# Fall Class Schedule



Introductory Course	
Introduction to NMCLA and Online Learning	September 26th to October 21st
Core Courses	
Fundamentals of Translation and Interpreting	October 24th - December 16th
Ethics & Best Practices	October 24th - November 18th
Criminal & Procedure Law Terminology	November 21st - December 16th
Specialization Course	
Interpreting Programs	January 2nd - February 24th
Language Access Specialist Programs	January 2nd - January 27th
Internships	
Interpreting Programs <i>Only</i>	TBA ( <i>upon completion of the online training</i> )



## Congratulations to Dr. Marcela Testai!

We are proud to announce that Dr. Marcela Testai, NMCLA medical interpreting instructor, has been appointed as a collaborator of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language.

Visit ANLE! <http://www.anle.us/>



## **“Al Paso” interview with María Kearney, Certified Medical Interpreter with UNMH and NMCLA Instructor.**

María Kearney was born and raised in México. She has been teaching Spanish for over 20 years, she is also a Certified Medical Interpreter/Translator. She currently works as an interpreter for UNMH and teaches a medical interpreting course at NMCLA. She enjoys teaching advanced conversational Spanish and Medical terminology in Spanish for medical students. She teaches group classes (up to 10 students) or individual classes privately. For these classes, María can be reached at: [maria.kearney@comcast.net](mailto:maria.kearney@comcast.net) or at home [\(505\) 899-5549](tel:5058995549)

### **Why did you become interested in medical interpreting?**

Because I saw the need and frustration when my own family and friends couldn't understand or be understood by their provider.

### **How did you begin?**

I began interpreting for friends and family members for free and then a friend told me to apply for an interpreter position with Language Line. So I studied hard and passed their test.

### **What were some of the major challenges you encountered in this profession?**

20 years ago there were no online classes for medical interpreters or any classes related to medical interpreting. I also had young children.

### **What is the day-to-day like for medical interpreters?**

Super exciting, every day you learn a new thing and it's never boring.

### **What is a typical day like for you at the hospital?**

You never know what you are going to see or learn, and the pay is great!

### **What is your teaching approach?**

I'm passionate about what I do and I love to teach and spread my knowledge. I like to help my students achieve their goals!

### **What advice would you give to those who want to pursue medical interpreting?**

Take classes, pay attention, immerse yourself in medical terminology, study, and have fun!

### **What should interpreter candidates take into account when embarking themselves into medical interpreting?**

That it takes time to become a medical interpreter... there are many challenges but if you try hard you will get there.

### **Has the profession changed over the years?**

Immensely! We are finally recognized as professionals and we are in demand.

### **How do you see the future of the profession?**

I see an excellent future: great job opportunities. Very rewarding.



[www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org](http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org)