



new mexico center
for language access

MULTILINGUAL INTERPRETING
AND TRANSLATION
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Newsletter

Issue II



2011 Interpreter Training

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. Attorneys, and experienced certified court interpreters and translators with a variety of backgrounds have designed this interdisciplinary curriculum. The program also includes an internship.

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.

**Pending final approval*

Introduction to NMCLA & Online Learning 4 weeks

Fundamentals of Translation & Interpreting 8 weeks

Ethics & Best Practices 4 weeks

Criminal & Procedure Law Terminology 4 weeks

Justice System Interpreting 8 weeks

Internship

- 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)
- Interpreter experience at **UNM Law Clinics**
- Interpreter experience at **UNM School of Law Mock Trials**
- Online work and test preparation

Final Examinations*

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

*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

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.

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

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



Certificate Programs begin on February 1st, 2011.
Application deadline is January 15th, 2011.

Professional Development Classes

Advanced Spanish for Language Professionals (SPAN 293 – online)

This is an online 3-credit course offered through UNM Los Alamos. The course's main focus is to improve students' advanced Spanish language oral and written skills. Topics include: advanced use of language, terminology, collocations, prepositions, grammar, pronunciation, colloquialisms, idioms, and Hispanic culture. Heritage speakers, translators, interpreters and advanced Spanish students are ideal candidates to this course. This is an online course. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next class begins on January 18th, 2011** Registration: www.la.unm.edu 505-661-4688

Advanced English for Language Professionals (ENGL 298 – online)

This is an online 3-credit course offered through UNM Los Alamos. The course's main focus is to improve students' advanced English language oral and written skills. Topics include: advanced use of language, terminology, collocations, prepositions, grammar, pronunciation, colloquialisms, idioms, and American culture. Translators, interpreters and advanced ESL students are ideal candidates to this course. This is an online course. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next class begins on January 18th, 2011.** Registration: www.la.unm.edu 505-661-4688

English-Spanish Criminal & Procedure Law Terminology I (online)

This class introduces students to the most common terms of criminal and procedure law, the legal concepts behind them and how to translate legal terms based on a model of functional equivalency. The class will greatly enhance students' terminological knowledge and prepare them for classes in consecutive and simultaneous court interpreting. **Duration:** 4 weeks. **Next class begins on March 28th, 2011**

Justice System Interpreting (online)

This class introduces students to fundamental legal concepts and terminology, and the NM and federal legal systems. The class includes intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting with a high degree of specialization. **Duration:** 8 weeks. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next Class begins on April 25th, 2011.**

Medical Interpreting (online)

This class introduces students to fundamental medical concepts and terminology, and basic anatomy and physiology. The class includes intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting with a higher degree of specialization. **Requisite:** NMCLA admission process required. **Next Class begins on April 25th, 2011.**

Mentorship Program (face-to-face – online)

Program includes:

1. Face-to-face intensive training session at UNM School of Law
2. Practice simultaneous interpreting examination (administered under the same conditions of the consortium's examination + rating/feedback from instructor).
3. Court observation
4. Volunteer program at UNM Law Clinic
5. Interpreting for jurors at UNM School of Law Mock Trials
6. Online test preparation with instructor

Program starts on June 18th, 2011. Requisites: Must have taken NM Court Interpreter Orientation in 2010 or 2011. Must have passed the Consortium Written Examination. NMCLA admission process required.

Intensive Face-to-face Training Session

Sessions include:

1. Professionalism and marketing of language services
2. Overview of final examinations
3. Intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting
4. Practice simultaneous examination (administered under the same conditions of the consortium's examination + rating/feedback from instructor)
5. Mini mock trial
6. Interpreting for jurors
7. Language-specific session

Dates: June 18th-19th, 2011. **Requisites:** same as Mentorship Program.



On Court Interpreting...

By Amelia Youssefi, M.A., Translator & NM Certified Court Interpreter

Ten years ago I had an unpleasant experience. An expert on international finance was to be a keynote speaker at the NGO where I did some volunteer work in Buenos Aires. The problem was, he spoke no Spanish and they didn't have an interpreter. "But you speak English *and* Spanish!" they said, "You can interpret for him!" Now, if you're an NMCLA student, or an interpreter, you already know that this is probably not a good idea. In the end I gave in to the pressure, battled my way through two excruciating hours of attempts to interpret on a subject I knew nothing about, for a person who barely stopped speaking enough to take a breath, and ended up with an interpreting trauma: I will never do this again; I'm not that kind of person; I'm just not wired that way.

Years have gone by since that awkward day, cocooned comfortably in my translating world. When I began to hear about the need for judicial interpreters in New Mexico, my usual preconceived ideas kicked in and I continued on my path. For some reason, though –perhaps the need for a new challenge, for working in contact with other people, for being of service to others- I began to wonder: if I worked to acquire the skills, maybe I *could* interpret? Fortuitously, NMCLA's Justice System Interpreting program came into existence right around then, and I decided to apply. A year later, I have completed the program, am a certified court interpreter and have recently begun working in the judicial system. In this short time, here are some insights I've gained:

- Interpreting is an ever-evolving and growing skill. A perpetual attitude of learning is key to becoming a better interpreter.
- Learning can happen anywhere, at anytime. While my classmates and I were working on completing our NMCLA certificate, we were required to fulfill a number of observation hours. I can't tell you how helpful that was. Getting to know a court, its proceedings, the interpreters that work there and the amazing job they do, put all the theory into reality. Oftentimes, when I'm called to interpret, proceedings get cancelled, someone doesn't show up, or there are gaps of time between interpretations. I take advantage of those moments to continue this practice of observation, jotting down new vocabulary, looking up terms in my dictionaries (which are always with me, just in case), absorbing. Some of you come from related backgrounds in the legal field and already have an understanding of what goes on in a courtroom and the language that is used. For me, it's a completely different world, and I can use all the help I can get!
- Always be on time (which I've come to learn means early), and be courteous to all. As interpreters, we interact with lots of people: court staff, judges, lawyers, officers, our fellow interpreters and, most importantly, the non-English-speakers that we serve. You will constantly be reminded of lessons learned from our Ethics classes and perhaps, like me, you'll be grateful that we had the opportunity to meditate on these issues before they happen in real life.
- Learn from your colleagues and don't be afraid to ask questions and ask for feedback.
- Finally, do not be embarrassed to ask the speakers to speak slower, to repeat what they said, to speak louder... You will find yourself having to do this a lot, but it's normal. Judges and lawyers in court are used to saying the same things over and over again, which allows them to speak at an incredible speed. However, they are quite kind about slowing down when reminded to do so.

It is true: with the right set of skills and a lot of practice, I can interpret, *you* can interpret, but this is just the beginning... and there is still so much to learn.