




## What It Means to Be a Professional Interpreter – And How to Get There


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## Who We Are



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*Program Manager*  
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## Who We Are

- Founded in 2001 in Columbia, MD
- Mission: to support equal access to community services for culturally and linguistically diverse residents
- The only national training agency devoted to community and medical interpreting
- More than 300 licensed trainers in 37 U.S. states; DC; Guam; and 6 other countries
- *Intersect*, our weekly e-newsletter has subscribers in 90 countries



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## And a little about you!

- What's your name?
- Where are you from?
- Experience with interpreting:
  - Have you ever used interpreting services?
  - Have you ever interpreted?

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## Interpreting vs. Translation

What's the difference between interpreting and translation?



## Interpreting vs. Translation

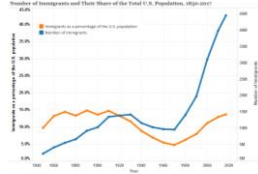
**Interpreting:** Rendering a message orally, or in signed language from one language into another.

**Translation:** Rendering a written text from one language to another in writing.

## Why Interpreting?

U.S. Immigrant Population and Share over Time, 1850-Present

This line graph shows the number of immigrants residing in the United States and the share of the total U.S. population that they represent over time.



- In 2017 more than 44.5 million immigrants resided in the U.S. – 13.7% of the total population.
- 1 in 7 U.S. residents is foreign born.

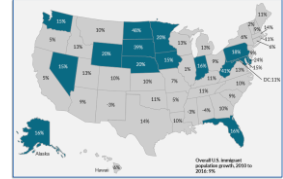
Source: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states#CurrentHistoricalNumbers>

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## Why Interpreting?

- From 2010-2016, U.S. immigrant population grew:
  - Nationally: 9%
  - Washington D.C.: 11%
  - Virginia: 13%
  - Maryland: 15%
  - Pennsylvania: 18%
  - Delaware: 24%
  - West Virginia: 41%



Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrants-us-states-fastest-growing-foreign-born-populations#Languages>

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## Why Interpreting?

Rank	Language/Spoken at Home	Total	Bilingual Share (%)	LEP Share (%)
1	Spanish or Spanish-English	8,474,000	80.0	80.0
2	Chinese	1,350,000	42.0	41.0
3	Tagalog	1,200,000	42.0	35.0
4	Vietnamese	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
5	Arabic	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
6	Indonesian	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
7	Khmer	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
8	German	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
9	Portuguese	1,000,000	35.0	30.0
10	French-English	1,000,000	35.0	30.0

- 22% of people ages 5 and older in the U.S. speak a language other than English at home.
- 40% of these U.S. residents are Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- In 2015 more than 25.9 million U.S. residents were LEP (9% of the total population)

Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/language-diversity-and-english-proficiency-united-states>

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## Why Interpreting?



TAHET Public Service Announcement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8LuoGxOBq>

31:14:48 views



## Industry Information

- Interpreters and Translators (2018)
  - Annual average salary: \$55,230
  - Annual average hourly wage: \$26.55
- DC/MD/VA/WV highest paid metropolitan area in the country for interpreters and translators
  - Annual average salary: \$79,240
  - Annual average hourly wage: \$38.10

Source: [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes733091.htm#\(1\)](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes733091.htm#(1))

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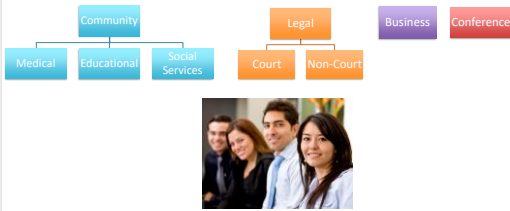


## Types of Interpreters

- Freelance/contract interpreters
- Staff interpreters
- Bilingual staff
- Volunteer interpreters



## Interpreting Specializations



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## How to Become An Interpreter

- Minimum requirements:
  - Bilingual/multilingual
  - At least 18 years old
  - High school diploma/GED
  - Completion of a 40-hr interpreter foundation program



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## Interpreter Foundation Training

- 40 hours of community/medical interpreter training
- Program must include:
  - Code of Ethics
  - Skills-building activities
  - Mediation techniques
  - Final assessment
- Should include: language proficiency testing



## Interpreter Certifications

- Medical
  - Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI)
  - The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI)
- Community
  - Dept. of Social and Health Services (DSHS), WA state
- Sign language
  - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
  - Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Certification Program (BEI)
- Court
  - Federal Court Interpreter Certification
  - MD Court Interpreter Program
  - VA Foreign Language Services
  - DC Office of Court Interpreting Services



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## Interpreter Continuing Education

Continuing education units (CEUs) needed to maintain interpreter certifications. CEUs earned at:

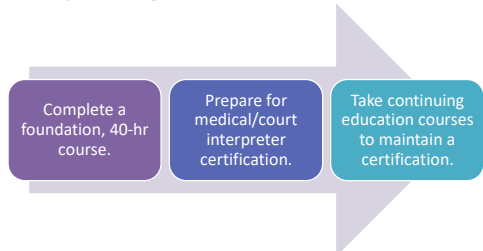
- Workshops
- Seminars
- American Translators Association (ATA) regional chapters' events
- Industry conferences



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## Interpreting as a Professional Career



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Source: Educational Interpreting: Video Tips for Interpreters and Staff  
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## A Typical Day in the Life of a Professional Interpreter

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## Resources for Interpreters



Our weekly e-newsletter

**interpreTIPS**

Our YouTube channel



Complimentary downloadable  
materials

Available at:

[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)  
[www.thecommunityinterpreter.com](http://www.thecommunityinterpreter.com)

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## Let's Keep In Touch!

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