



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

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Who We Are



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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
- More than 30,000 CCC textbooks and manuals sold in 28 countries and all 50 U.S. states
- *Intersect*, our weekly e-newsletter has subscribers in 90 countries





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*.

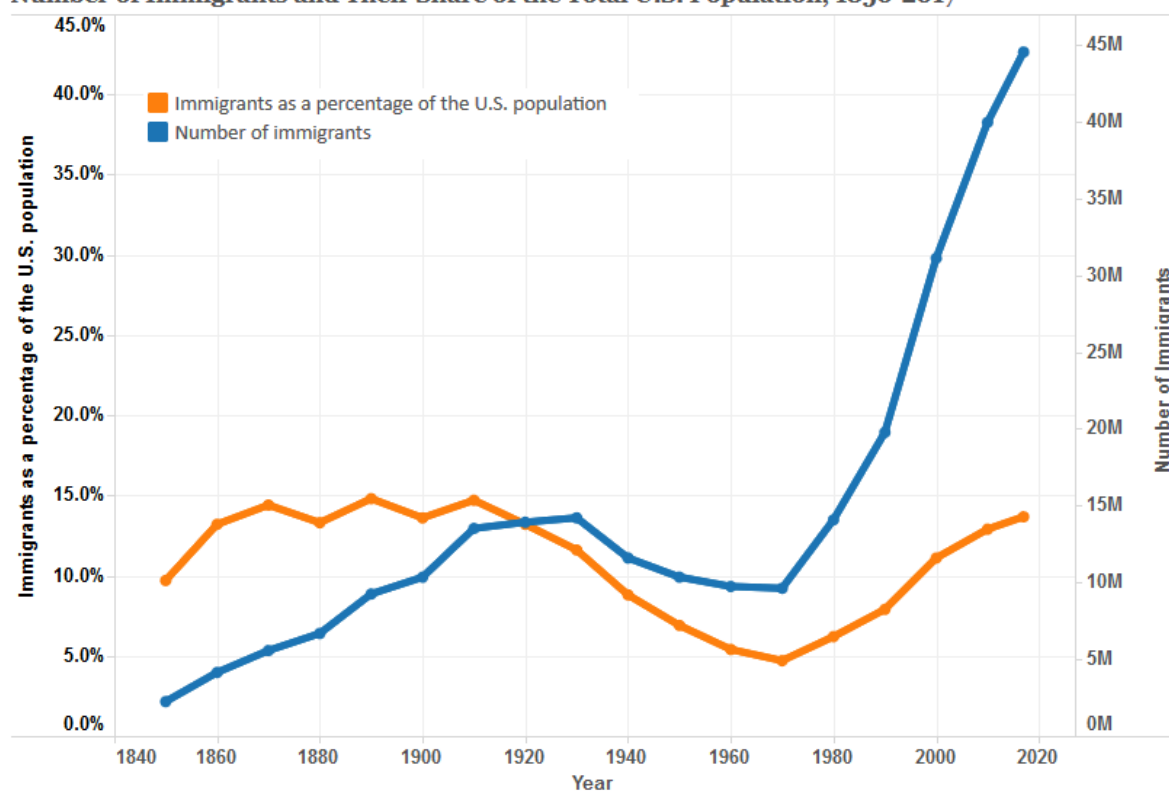


Why Interpreting?

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

This chart displays both the number of immigrants residing in the United States and their share of the total U.S. population over time.

Number of Immigrants and Their Share of the Total U.S. Population, 1850-2017



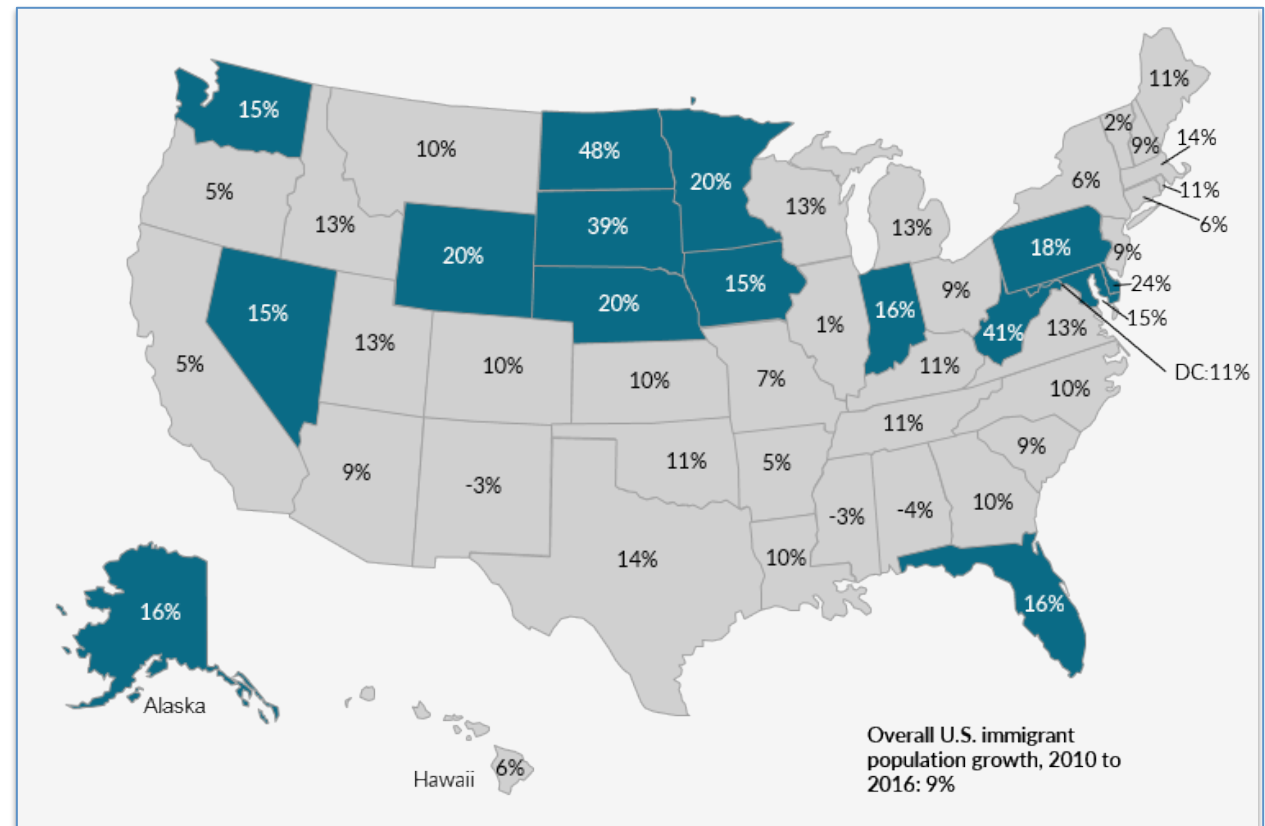
Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub
<http://migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>

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

- 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.
- Many laws require interpreters for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Deaf/Hard of Hearing residents.

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>

Why Interpreting?

Table 1. Top Ten Languages Other Than English Spoken in U.S. Homes, 2015

Rank	Languages Spoken at Home	Total	Bilingual Share (%)	LEP Share (%)
	Total	64,716,000	60.0	40.0
1	Spanish or Spanish Creole	40,046,000	59.0	41.0
2	Chinese	3,334,000	44.3	55.7
3	Tagalog	1,737,000	67.6	32.4
4	Vietnamese	1,468,000	41.1	58.9
5	French	1,266,000	79.9	20.1
6	Arabic	1,157,000	62.8	37.2
7	Korean	1,109,000	46.8	53.2
8	German	933,000	85.1	14.9
9	Russian	905,000	56.0	44.0
10	French Creole	863,000	58.8	41.2

Notes: Chinese includes Chinese, Mandarin, and Cantonese; French includes Patois and Cajun; German includes Pennsylvania Dutch.
Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey (ACS).

- 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>

Why Interpreting?



TAHIT Public Service Announcement



TAHITOnline

Subscribe 48

31,146 views

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

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

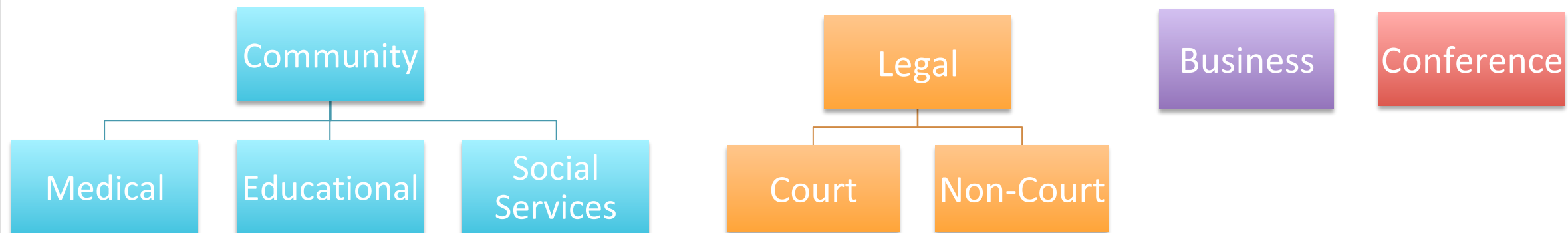
Source: [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#\(1\)](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#(1))



Types of Interpreters

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

Interpreting Specializations



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



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 Interpreter (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



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*



Interpreting as a Professional Career

Complete a foundation, 40-hr course.

Prepare for medical/court interpreter certification.

Take continuing education courses to maintain a certification.



A Typical Day in the Life of a Professional Interpreter

Source: Educational Interpreting: Video Tips for Interpreters and Staff ©Cross-Cultural Communications, LLC

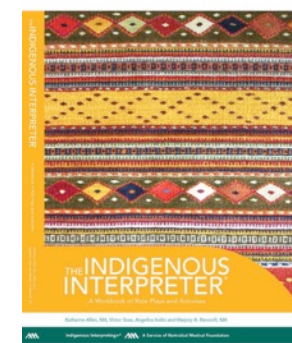
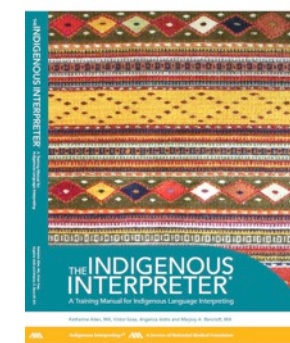
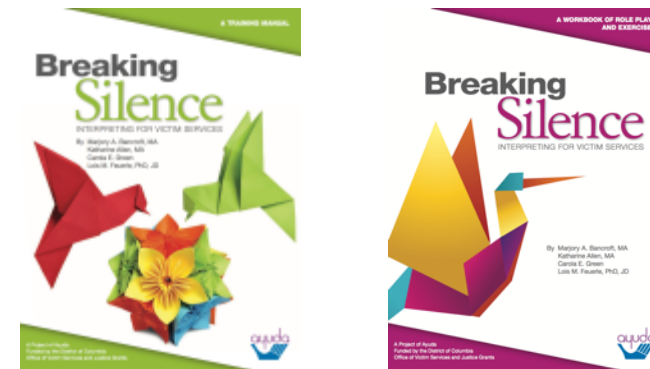
Resources for Interpreters



Our weekly e-newsletter



Our YouTube channel



Complimentary downloadable materials

Available at:

www.cultureandlanguage.net

www.thecommunityinterpreter.com

Let's Keep In Touch!

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