

Classification of Interpreters Who Work in Languages for Which There Is No Court Interpreting Oral Examination

Classification Levels

The Judiciary classifies all interpreters at one of three levels: Master, Journeyman or Conditionally Approved. The vast majority of newly registered interpreters working in languages for which there is no court interpreting oral exam start at the Conditionally Approved level. These interpreters are considered “registered” interpreters, not “approved” or “certified.”

Classification is Provisional

All classifications for persons working in these untested languages are provisional until such time as an oral exam becomes available. When an oral exam becomes available in a particular language, then all persons registered for that language, regardless of classification, will be required to take the exam and the results will determine their classification and eligibility to work in the courts.

Classification in Multiple Languages

Languages are treated individually for credentialing purposes; accordingly, classification for persons who interpret in more than one language is also determined individually by language. Classification criteria detailed below must be met for each language. Additionally, if persons:

- a. interpret both in a language for which there is an oral exam and another language for which there is not **and**
- b. indicate either that their stronger language is the language for which there is an oral exam or that they have roughly equal command of both languages, then the classification for the language for which there is no oral exam will usually be the same as that for the language with an oral exam or lower. The classification will never be higher.

Upgrade in Classification

An interpreter must meet or exceed each of the five classification criteria detailed below to receive an upgrade. Interpreters registered for one year and meeting the test requirements for the next classification level may apply for an upgrade. Proofs of the testing, training, and experience criteria are required.

To apply for an upgrade in classification, interpreters must submit to the Language Services Section (LSS) a package including a letter addressing each criterion, along with required proofs and a completed court interpreting experience form. Interpreters must submit a letter, proofs and forms for each language in which they wish to be upgraded. Submissions should be sent to: Administrative Office of the Courts, Language Services Section, P.O. Box 988, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Training Criteria

Specific course options for the training criterion are detailed below. However, if applicants are able to find other courses they believe are equivalent (e.g., on-line courses, etc.) they should provide a course syllabus to the LSS for review and possible approval as a substitution. The burden of proof of equivalency is on the applicant.

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Classification Criteria

The table below summarizes the classification criteria for interpreters working in a language for which no court interpreting oral exam is available.

Criteria	Classification Levels		
	Master	Journeyman	Conditionally Approved
Written test	85%+	80-84%	70-79%
Oral Proficiency Interview	12+	12	11
Spoken English Test	60+	49-59	44-48
Certification and other exams*	Has passed all relevant available	No pertinent exams available or not all	No pertinent exams passed or available
Training	Has completed 6 credits of interpreting classes with grades of A or B**	Has completed 3 credits in simultaneous interpreting with grade of A or B***	No formal training
Experience ^	Has extensive and diverse court interpreting experience	Some professional court interpreting experience	Little or no professional court interpreting experience

* The "Certification and other exams" criterion may include interpreting, language proficiency, or translation credentialing exams. This criterion may be waived if no pertinent exams are available.

** The six credits must be either of the following sets of courses or an equivalent set approved by LSS:

1. Two 3-credit courses at Rutgers University:
 - a. 16:617:533, Interpreting
 - b. 16:617:535, Court Interpreting
2. Two 3-credit courses at Union County College:
 - a. INT 101, Interpreting I; and
 - b. INT 102, Interpreting II (sight and simultaneous interpreting)

*** The three credits may be either of the following or an equivalent course approved by LSS:

1. One 3-credit course:
 - a. at Rutgers University, 16:617:533, Interpreting
 - b. at Union County College: INT 102, Interpreting II (sight and simultaneous interpreting)

^ Submit a completed Court Interpreting Experience Form available at www.judiciary.state.nj.us/interpreters/11165.pdf