

# ORAL EXAM OUTCOMES

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The following is a summary of and must be read in conjunction with the *Court Interpreting Test Results* section of the [Overview For Examinees Taking the Court Interpreter Oral Exam \(Overview\)](#).

## What are the possible oral exam outcomes?

Candidates who take an oral exam may fail, or become "approved" or "conditionally approved" after reaching certain scoring criteria as described in the **Overview** and completing the Court Interpreter Approval Program. Candidates who become approved or conditionally approved are eligible to register to be included in the [Registry of Interpreting Resources \(Registry\)](#). The following are the possible outcomes:

1. **Failed:** A candidate who scores below 50% on any section of the oral exam has failed and will be required to take a 3-credit interpreting/translating course to be eligible to retest. These persons are not eligible to work in any court or arm of the court under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Supreme Court.
2. **Approved:** A candidate who scores at least 70% in all oral exam sections, reaches certain scoring criteria as described in the [Overview](#) section titled Court Interpreting Test Results, and completes the Court Interpreter Approval Program will be considered **"approved."** An approved court interpreter has completed written and oral exams at the Journeyman or Master levels as described in the *Overview*. The Judiciary's policy is to give all interpreting assignments to these interpreters when possible.
3. **Failed: Conditionally Approved.** A candidate who scores from 50% to 69% in any section of the oral exam, reaches certain scoring criteria as described in the **Overview**, and completes the Court Interpreter Approval Program will be considered **"conditionally approved,"** which means they are qualified at a trainee level. A conditionally-approved contract court interpreter may be given interpreting assignments only when no approved court interpreter is reasonably available.

**NOTE:** For purposes of working in any state-level court, persons who score at the conditionally-approved level may remain in that status no longer than two years from the date the candidate completes the oral examination. If the candidate does not successfully reach a passing level during that time period, the candidate:

- will presumably no longer be eligible to deliver interpreting services in Superior or Tax Court (exceptions may be allowed upon clear demonstration of significant progress) and will be removed from the [Registry](#); and
  - will have to retake any oral exam section that was previously passed. In other words, for persons at the conditionally-approved level, passing a portion of the interpreting test is valid for only two years.
4. **Registered:** A **"registered"** court interpreter is someone who works in languages for which there is no oral examination. To become a registered court interpreter, the candidate must complete the Court Interpreter Approval Program by reaching written exam scoring criteria as described in the written exam overview, attending the orientation seminar, and passing a Spoken English Test and Oral Proficiency Interview exam.
    - These interpreters may remain in the "registered" status only for as long as no oral exam has become available in a particular language. Once an oral exam is developed in a language, all persons registered for that language must take the exam and qualify at some appropriate level in order to remain in the [Registry](#). If they qualify, then they will become either "approved" or "conditionally approved." Anyone who declines to be tested within a reasonable time period or who takes the test and does not score at the conditionally-approved level or higher will be removed from the [Registry](#).