



Exam Eligibility

Per policy, a passing Written Examination score remains valid for three years, and if a candidate does not pass the Court Interpreting Oral Exam within that period, they have to restart the credential process. To accommodate these unprecedented times, the OJD will extend all eligible Oral Exam candidates' Written Exam passing scores by one year. This will allow an additional year to take the Oral Exam, should the candidate not feel comfortable taking part in the 2020 Court Interpreting Oral Examination.



Upcoming Dates

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our calendar of events is changing frequently. You will receive updates about changes to the calendar via email as we are able, but the best place to find a current schedule of events is on our online calendar.

[CLAS Online Calendar](#)

2020 Court Interpreting Oral Exam

Registration for the 2020 Court Interpreting Oral Examination is now open! In order to be eligible to take the exam, registrants must have passed the Written Examination in 2018, 2019, or 2020. The exam will take place on Saturday August 29th. The OJD will ensure that we are following all social distancing recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and the National Center for State Courts for the health and safety of our examinees. Click [here](#) to register online. As a reminder, we have several study resources listed on our [website](#), if you are preparing to take the Oral Exam in August, you will definitely want to check those out.

Spotlight On

Each month we are featuring a member of CLAS staff to give you some encouragement and an idea of what it is like to work as an interpreter in court, or as a member of CLAS staff. This month, we are featuring Court Language Access Services' Program Manager, Kelly Mills.

CLAS: What is your favorite thing about working for Court Language Access Services?

Kelly: Feeling like I can make a positive impact on people's lives as they interact with the judicial branch through the language access mission of providing access to justice.

CLAS: Interpreters are a vital piece of ensuring language access in the courts—what is the most interesting thing about working with interpreters?

Kelly: They have such varied backgrounds of experiences, education, hobbies, and lifestyles. They are so interesting to talk to and very passionate on many issues. They live life to the fullest and I am always in awe of their interpreting abilities. I really respect the complex and difficult skill of interpreting, knowing that many others don't fully appreciate what interpreters actually do.

CLAS: What are the biggest challenges that you think interpreters face in the courtroom?

Kelly: Feeling misunderstood or overlooked in the overall scheme of courtroom dynamics with many different players with different levels of authority and attention. It takes mature problem solving skills and professionalism to be appropriately assertive to make sure the interpreters' needs are being met in order to do their very best for both the court and the limited English proficient party. I also think much of the work is performed in isolation and networking with colleagues seems to be very important for balance and feeling connected to others who experience the same things.

CLAS: What is one piece of advice you have for interpreters who are pursuing Oregon Court Certification?

Kelly: Use the real courtroom as your laboratory. Observe court, see if you understand everyone's roles, sit in the back and see if you can 'keep up' interpreting with the 'real thing', learn new vocabulary, take copies of forms used in court, observe the interpersonal behaviors of various players. And finally, consider if you like the environment and can picture yourself doing this job.