



Court Language  
Access Services

# Four Things You Can Do NOW to Prepare for Court Interpreter Certification

## Court Observation

Most Oregon Courts are open to the public for observation. It will be helpful to understand the role of the court interpreter by reading the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Oregon Courts. After carefully reviewing the Code, an interpreter candidate can begin doing court observation to improve legal vocabulary and to learn court proceedings and protocol.

- [Court observation helpful Tips](#)
- [Observation Log](#)
- [Guided Observation Exercise](#)

## Assess Your Bilingualism

Having a high level of bilingualism before attempting any of the pre-certification examinations may be one of the indicators that predicts overall success in the certification process. While not required, the OJD recommends that candidates assess their bilingual skills before investing in the process to become an Oregon Certified Court Interpreter by participating in an optional assessment test.

- Non-Native English Speakers: The [Versant English Test \(VET\)](#) evaluates spoken English skills [over the phone]. Scores are delivered online within minutes of completing the test. The OJD recommends a score of 49 or higher for court interpreting.
- Native English Speakers: The [ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - Computer \(OPIc\)](#) evaluates spoken foreign language skills online. Scores are delivered via email after five business days of taking the exam. The OJD recommends a “Superior” rating for court interpreting.

## Build Your Legal Vocabulary

Court interpreting has its own special set of challenges and the hearings range from minor traffic infractions to domestic dissolutions to criminal trials. Being bilingual is not sufficient to meet the high standard that is required to interpret for court proceedings. Court interpreters must have knowledge and vocabulary of court proceedings and court procedures.

- [National Center for State Courts Legal Glossaries and Dictionaries](#)
- [Black's Law Dictionary](#)
- [CLAS Resources Page \(Legal Dictionaries & Glossaries\)](#)



Court Language  
Access Services

# Four Things You Can Do NOW to Prepare for Court Interpreter Certification

## Written Exam Preparation

The written examination is a multiple-choice exam designed by the National Center for State Courts to measure: general knowledge of court interpreting, the English language, court related vocabulary and usage, ethics and professional conduct. The written exam must be passed with a score of 80 percent or higher.

- [OJD Written Exam Prep Video](#)
- [CLAS Resources Page](#)

## Oral Exam Preparation

The Court Interpreting Oral Examination is an oral exam designed by the National Center for State Courts to measure the candidate's interpreting skills in the sight, consecutive, and simultaneous modes of interpretation. The Oral Exam must be passed with a score of 70 percent or higher on each of the modes of interpretation.

- OJD Oral Exam Prep Videos
  - [Module 1: Exam Overview and Study Plan](#)
  - [Module 2: Sight Interpreting](#)
  - [Module 3: Consecutive Interpreting](#)
  - [Module 4: Simultaneous Interpreting](#)
- [CLAS Resources Page](#)