


Court Interpreter Credentialing Process: Orientation to Testing

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Court Interpreter Credentialing Process

- Court Interpreter Credentialing Process (certification, licensure, approval) is determined by state language access programs
- Process may include training, testing, continuing education, background checks, etc.

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NCSC Role

- Serves as the repository for court interpreter exam materials
- Standardizes exam development and administration practices
- Performs candidate history checks, exam version assignments, and maintenance of database
- Conducts recruitment and training of oral exam raters

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State Role

- Recruits and trains candidates
- Registers candidates
- Administers tests per NCSC protocols
- Coordinates exam rating
- Audits rated exams
- Disseminates exam results
- Processes appeals
- Communicates with candidates

Building a Credentialing Process

- Factors to Consider:
 - Program costs and fee structures
 - Candidate recruitment and training processes
 - Volume of candidates
 - Language use and need
 - Pre- and post-exam requirements

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Exams Maintained by NCSC

- Written Exam
- Oral Court Interpreter Exams
- Abbreviated Exams

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Written Exam

- English only
- 135 multiple choice questions
- Part I: General Language Proficiency
- Part II: Court-Related Terms & Usage, and Ethics & Professional Conduct
- 80% passing score

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Oral Court Interpreter Exams

- The oral exam measures a candidate's ability to successfully interpret in three modes:
 - Sight translation of documents
 - Consecutive interpretation
 - Simultaneous interpretation

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Oral Court Interpreter Exams: Languages

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- French
- Haitian Creole
- Hmong
- Ilocano
- Khmer
- Korean
- Laotian
- Mandarin
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

Abbreviated Oral Exam

- Simultaneous oral interpreting exam, plus
- Oral English proficiency exam conducted by a vendor approved by the former Technical Committee
- Available in the following languages:
 - Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian
 - Marshallese
 - Turkish

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Oral Court Interpreter Exams

- Fixed Elements
 - Content of any exam (words and phrases)
 - Structure and sequence of each exam form
 - Administration protocols and rating of the exam
 - NCSC Candidate ID #
 - NCSC Rater ID #

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Oral Court Interpreter Exams

- Passing Score Recommendations
 - Consecutive – 70%
 - Simultaneous – 70%
 - Sight Translation – 70% average for both (with no section less than 65%)

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Retest Limitations

- Recommendations for Retest Limitations:
 - Retest with different test forms
 - A candidate may only be given a test form previously taken after all other available test forms have been administered to that candidate
 - NCSC maintains records of test forms administered to candidates
 - Candidates are required to wait at least 6 months before retaking the same form of an examination

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The Rating Process

- Raters review the audio recording of the performance and mark scripts individually for each candidate in real time
- Lead rater (or rater supervisor) guides a consensus process and records all consensus decisions
- Lead rater/rater supervisor fills out rater results form

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Before Rating

- Materials sent to raters:
 - Candidate recordings
 - Test scripts and scoring dictionaries
 - Candidate results forms
 - Scoring unit suggestion forms

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After Rating

- Materials received from raters:
 - Candidate results forms
 - Marked scripts
 - Candidate recordings

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After Rating

- Audit all rated exams
- Prepare final materials for NCSC
- Report any issues with the exam administration or rating process

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Q&A Session

Questions?



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