

Missouri Foreign Language Court Interpreter Program

Events Scheduled
January 1 - December 31, 2025

**Promoting equal access to justice in courts
by eliminating language barriers for persons
with limited English proficiency.**

In order for Missouri's courts to provide qualified interpreters, OSCA manages a certification program for persons with a native-like mastery of English and a second language. To become certified, candidates are required to attend a two-day orientation that includes information about the interpreting profession, the code of professional responsibility and modes of interpreting. **Successful candidates must continue self-study before taking the written test and oral exams.**

Do you have the skills necessary to be a professional court interpreter?

1. Possess educated, native-like mastery of *both* English and a second language;
2. Display wide general knowledge, comparable to 2 years of college or university education; and
3. Perform the 3 modes of court interpreting – sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous.

If numbers 1 & 2 describe you and you are willing to develop the skills for number 3, court interpreting may be for you.

PHASE 1: ORIENTATION

This phase must be completed before any other part of the program. The two-day workshop is open to any person at least 18 years of age with a *native-like mastery of English and a second language*. This workshop includes instruction regarding the modes of interpreting used in court, the interpreter's role and code of professional responsibility, legal terminology and court protocol. Candidates are expected to continue self-study before taking the written and oral exams. **Fee - \$275.00 (fees subject to change)**

DATES OFFERED

March 13-14, 2025

Metropolitan Community College – Maple Woods
Kansas City, MO
Registration & payment deadline February 10, 2025

2nd Orientation Offering

Date: TBD
Location: TBD
Registration & payment deadline TBD

Please note all programs are subject to change until program is confirmed.

- Travel expenses, lodging arrangements and meals are the responsibility of the attendee.
- Guests/children are not allowed.
- Recording classes and tests are not permitted.
- Events are subject to cancellation or fee changes due to budgetary constraints or low enrollment.

PHASE 2: WRITTEN EXAM

After attending orientation in full, candidates may register to take the written test. The multiple-choice portion covers English proficiency, legal terms, court protocol, and ethical situations and must be passed with 80% or greater. The translation portion is from English to a second language and is graded on a pass/not pass rating.

Fee Schedule (subject to change)

\$25	\$75	\$100
Spanish	Cantonese	Haitian Creole
\$50	French	\$150
Bosnian	Mandarin	Portuguese
Korean	Vietnamese	Russian

Fees listed above are subject to change. Fees for languages not listed will be determined upon request.

DATES OFFERED

Monday, April 28, 2025
Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO
Registration & payment deadline April 14, 2025

Monday, June 2, 2025
Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO
Registration & payment deadline May 19, 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025
Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO
Registration & payment deadline September 1, 2025

Monday, November 3, 2025
Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO
Registration & payment deadline October 20, 2025

PHASE 3: ORAL EXAM

Candidates who have passed the written test may take the 1-hour oral exam testing their skill in sight translation, consecutive, and simultaneous interpreting. Each part of this exam must be passed with 70% or greater for a candidate to receive certification.

Fees will be determined prior to registration.

Full oral exams are currently available in Amharic, Arabic, Cantonese, Filipino (Tagalog), French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. Abbreviated exams are available in Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and Turkish.

If you speak a language that is not listed above, you may be eligible to take an oral proficiency interview. You must receive the highest score possible to be listed as “Registered.”

DATES OFFERED

Monday, March 3, 2025

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline January 27,
2025

Monday, June 9, 2025

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline April 28, 2025

Monday, October 6, 2025

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline August 25,
2025

Monday, December 8, 2025

Office of State Courts Administrator
Jefferson City, MO

Registration & payment deadline October 27,
2025

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

What materials are used for training and testing?

Missouri belongs to the **Council of Language Access Coordinators** through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Our program is based on their model, using their materials and recommended practices.

Where do I find more information about becoming an interpreter, the tests, and the Council?

Our website (www.courts.mo.gov) has information under Rules & Resources. The NCSC website (www.ncsc.org) has information and resources under Interpreter Info.

Do I have to go through all three phases if I teach language, already interpret and took several years of language training?

Yes, everyone working toward certification must participate in all three phases.

Is there reciprocity between members of the Council?

Missouri accepts completion of most members' orientation and passing NCSC test scores and proof of federal certification.

What is an abbreviated exam that is offered for some languages?

An abbreviated exam does not test all modes of interpreting and full certification is not available for those languages.

Is there anything else I can do if there is an abbreviated or no test in my language set?

After completing Phases 1 and 2, and then passing an oral proficiency interview (OPI) at the highest possible rating, you will be given a “Registered” status.

How much work is there?

It varies by where you are located, where you are willing to travel and your language set. As an

independent contractor, the courts contact interpreters on an “as needed” basis. There are no staff interpreters in Missouri and no guarantee of work.

How will anyone know when I'm certified or registered and how to contact me?

Contact information for certified and registered interpreters is shared with the courts and posted on our intranet site as well as our website.

To be added to the notification list for upcoming certification events, please send your contact information (including your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and what language(s) you speak) to the following email address or call the number listed.

Office of State Courts Administrator
Access to Justice Program
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Jefferson City, MO 65110
(573) 522-2616
www.courts.mo.gov
access2justice@courts.mo.gov