

## Oregon Health Authority Qualified or Certified Health Care Interpreting Requirements Checklist

Use this document as a checklist to keep track of the requirements you have met along your journey of becoming a qualified or certified Health Care Interpreter (HCI). Contact [UHQualityImprovement@umpquahealth.com](mailto:UHQualityImprovement@umpquahealth.com) with questions or concerns regarding HCI training, language proficiency, and documentation requirements.

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### Qualified or Certified Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Prerequisites

To meet Oregon Health Authority (OHA) HCI standards, you must become a **qualified** interpreter by meeting all the requirements below.

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must have a high school diploma (or GED equivalent) or higher.
- Cannot be on the Medicaid Exclusions List.
- Must prove proficiency in both English and the target language ([see Language Proficiency Requirements section below for satisfying this requirement](#)).
- Must have at least 60-hours of formal health care interpreter training from one of the below OHA approved trainings:
  - [Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association \(OHCIA\)](#) (Recommended)
    - Note: Apply for [UHA's Health Care Interpreter Scholarship](#) to receiving funding support for the OHCIA 60-hour online program**
  - [ALTA Medical Interpreter Training: Breaking Boundaries in Healthcare](#)
  - [Core Medical Interpreter Training® \(CMIT®\), The National Institute for Coordinated Health Care \(NICHC\)](#)
  - [Culture Advantage, Medical Interpreter Training](#)
  - [Interpreters Associates, Inc.](#)
  - [IRCO's International Language Bank: Healthcare Interpreter Training](#)
  - [LanguageLine Testing and Training: Advanced Medical Training](#)
  - [Linguistics Global Associates, NICHC - Core Medical Interpreter Training®](#)
  - [One Voice Associates LLC](#)
  - [Oregon State University Spanish-English Health Care Interpreter Training](#)
  - [Spanish Healthcare Interpreter Training program through Linfield University](#)

- [Svetlana's Training for Interpreters](#)
- [The Cross Cultural Health Care Program - Bridging the Gap](#)
- [UIO Languages NICHHC- Core Medical Interpreter Training®](#)
  
- *Optional:* you can become a **certified** interpreter in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Korean, Arabic, Mandarin, or Cantonese by meeting all the above steps **AND** passing a certification test from one of the following:
  - [National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters \(NBCMI\)](#)
  - [Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters](#)
  - [National Center for State Courts Court Interpreter Oral Examination](#)
  - [Oregon Court Interpreter Certification](#)
  - [Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exams](#)
  - [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf \(RID\)](#)

### Language Proficiency Requirements

Proof of language proficiency is required in *both English and your target language*. To meet language proficiency requirements, ensure that you meet at least one option under the English proficiency requirements and one option under the target language proficiency requirements below.

- Notably, clinicians fluent in a non-English language do *not* need to complete the 60-hour formal health care interpreter training if the clinician can provide proof of language proficiency as outlined in the [Clinician Language Proficiency Requirements Check List](#).
- Proof of language proficiency includes exam results or a copy of diploma.

**English proficiency** must be proven by completing at least one of the below options:

- Passing one of the OHA approved proficiency exams in English:
  - **\*[Language Line University \(preferred proficiency exam\)– Level 2 or above; Interagency Language Roundtable \(ILR\)](#)**
  - [Language Testing International](#) – testing is based on American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessment; advanced mid-level or above; both the optional phone interpreter (OPI – telephonic) and OPIc (computer recording) are acceptable
  
- Graduation from a bachelor, masters, doctorate, or any other degree program from any US institution of higher education.
  
- Graduation from any high school (or GED) in an English language speaking country where English is the primary language of instruction.

- Graduation from a higher education institution abroad where English is the primary language of instruction.
- Completion of one of the following tests. Test results must be no more than four years old to be considered valid.
  - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): 570+ on paper; 230+ on computer version; 90 on iBT
  - Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), Level 4: B
  - Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Level 5: B
  - International English Language Testing System (IELTS): 7.0+
  - Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR): 2+
  - Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
  - Oral Proficiency Interview at the advanced mid-level on the ACTFL scale

**Target language proficiency** must be proven by completing at least one of the below options:

- Passing one of the OHA approved proficiency exams in the target language:
  - [\\*Language Line University](#) (preferred proficiency exam)– Level 2 or above; **Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR)**
  - [Language Testing International](#) – testing is based on American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessment; advanced mid-level or above; both the optional phone interpreter (OPI – telephonic) and OPIc (computer recording) are acceptable
- Graduation from a bachelor, masters, doctorate, or any other degree program from an institution of higher education where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- Graduation from high school in a country where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- Completion of one of the following tests. Test results must be no more than four years old to be considered valid.
  - Interagency Language Round Table (ILR): 2+ from federal government testing agencies
  - Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
  - Oral Proficiency Interview at the advanced mid-level on the ACTFL scale

## Final Steps & Documentation

- Email required documents to [HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov) to become an OHA qualified or certified interpreter and appear on the state registry.
  - Required documents:
    - Completed [OHA Health Care Interpreter Application](#)
    - Clear copy of 60-hour OHA approved training certificate
    - Clear copy of driver's license, state-issued ID card, or passport
    - Proof of English and target language proficiency

## Interpreters Certified with a National Organization

Nationally certified HCIs must complete all the above steps to comply with the requirements outlined by the Oregon Health Authority.

## Resources

[UHA's Health Care Interpreter Scholarship](#)

[Interpreter Service Request Workflow](#)

[UHA's Language Access Plan](#)

[2021-2023 Language Access Incentive Measure Technical Specifications](#)