

Language Interpreter for Health Services

Less-than-one-year Technical Diploma

Health-Related Professions Program Cluster

Center of Health & Safety Education

Program offered at South Campus

For information call: (608) 246-6065 or
(800) 322-6282 Ext. 6065

About the Program

Language Interpreter for Health Services prepares students for employment as entry-level interpreters in a variety of sites including hospitals, clinics, family practice, and community agencies. The student will acquire a combination of cultural competency and interpreting skills that are necessary to bridge the divide between non-English speaking individuals and the health care system. Interpreters will assist non-English speaking clients access quality health services.

Aptitudes and interests in helping people and facility with language are helpful for this career area.

This program is offered primarily in the evening and on a part time basis.

Program outcomes for graduates include:

- Consecutive and simultaneous interpreting
- Sight translation
- Knowledge and applicability of medical terminology
- Strengthened interpersonal skills
- Knowledge and applicability of culturally and linguistically appropriate communication styles

Requirements for All Applications Submitted for the Current Academic Year:

Admissions Requirements

- 1) High school or higher graduation, HSED or GED completion;
- 2) satisfactory scores on:
COMPASS – Reading, Writing, E-Write, and Pre-Alg,
Versant-English, Versant-Spanish and UW Placement for Spanish.

Program Requirements

- 1) Fluent bilingual skills in Spanish and English, as determined by testing assessments;
- 2) current Caregiver Background Check

Curriculum

FIRST YEAR

First Semester		Credits	Hrs/week Lec-Lab
31-538-301	Introduction to Interpreting (9 wks)	1	4-0
31-538-302	Introduction to Basic Translation Skills (9 wks)	1	4-0
31-538-304	Introduction to Interpreting in Spanish (9wks)	2	6-0
31-538-305	Intro to Basic Translation in Spanish (9 wks)	2	6-0
Semester Total		6	

Second Semester

31-538-306	Introduction to Computer Basics (9 wks) OR	1	2-2
10-103-137	Word-Beginning	(1)	(1-0)
31-538-307	US Healthcare System	2	2-0
31-538-309	Interpreting in Mental Health (Spanish) (9 wks)	1	4-0
31-538-303	Cultural Competency (9 wks)	1	4-0
31-538-308	Interpreting in Health Care in Spanish	1	2-0
Semester Total		6	

Summer Semester

31-538-310	Ethics	1	4.5-0
31-538-311	Business Practices	1	4.5-0
31-538-312	Medical Practicum	1	0-9
31-538-313	Cultural Competency in Medical Setting	1	4.5-0
Semester Total		4	

Language Interpreter Course Prerequisites

Students enrolling in the courses identified within this program must meet the following prerequisites: high school graduation or GED and language assessments tests.

Program Courses

31-538-301 Intro to Interpreting 1 credit

This initial interpretation course develops students' listening and memory skills and provides strategies to translate texts orally (sight) from Spanish into English or vice versa while maintaining the same style and register as the original. Development and enhancement of students' bilingual potential in both English and Spanish through the acquisition of non-technical vocabulary and comparative syntax will also be emphasized. Class is taught in English.

31-538-302 Intro to Basic Translation Skills 1 credit

Principles and procedures for the translation of written materials. Includes an introduction to translation, translation preparation, translation procedures, and basics of grammar. Class is taught in English.

31-538-303 Cultural Competency 1 credit

An orientation to some of the factors that influence people to speak, act, negotiate and make decisions. The objective is to modify personal assumptions and habits that impede success in the workplace, at whatever level of employment, whether domestic or international. Students will learn how styles of thinking, value systems and political/social realities affect relationships. Special consideration will be given to international communication, negotiations, marketing and host international visitors. Class is taught in English.

31-538-304 Intro to Interpreting in Spanish 2 credits

Specific theories and practices in interpreting oral communication from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. Includes theories of interpretation, techniques of interpretation, interpretation strategies, interpretation procedures, and modes of interpretation. Class is taught in English and Spanish. Prerequisite: 31-538-301.

31-538-305 Intro to Basic Translation Skills in Spanish 2 credits

Principles and procedures for the translation of written materials. Includes an introduction to translation, translation preparation, translation procedures, basics of grammar in the target languages English and Spanish. Analysis of the Spanish language from the translator's point of view. Includes the structure of Spanish, cultural and stylistic components, paragraph and document development, mechanics and punctuation for editing, and writing resources. Class is taught in English and Spanish. Prerequisite: 31-538-302.

31-538-306 Intro to Computer Basics 1 credit

This class provides an overview of the computer for all level users. Focus will be on using software to keep your freelance interpreter business running smoothly. Class is taught in English.

31-538-307 US Health Care System 2 credit

This class is designed to give the student a broad understanding of the dynamics, key elements and overall principles of the health care system in the US. Particular attention is given to terms used by health services professionals and payer/provider relationships. Class is taught in English.

31-538-308 Interpreting in Healthcare in Spanish 1 credit

This course develops the techniques, practice and knowledge needed to function as interpreters in a medical environment. Interpretation modes such as sight translation and consecutive interpretation as they apply to the medical setting are emphasized. Medical vocabulary/terminology in both English and Spanish will also be introduced. Class is taught in English and Spanish. Prerequisites: 31-538-301; 31-538-302; 31-538-304 and 31-538-305. Corequisite: 31-538-303

31-538-309 Interpreting in Mental Health in Spanish 1 credit

This course develops the techniques, practice and knowledge needed to function as interpreters in a mental health care setting. Interpretation modes such as sight translation and consecutive interpretation as they apply to a mental health care setting are emphasized. Mental health vocabulary/terminology in both English and Spanish will also be introduced. Class is taught in English and Spanish. Prerequisites: 31-538-301; 31-538-302; 31-538-303; 31-538-304 and 31-538-305

31-538-310 Ethics 1 credit

This course provides an in depth examination of the principals of the National Code of Ethics for Interpreters in Health Care and their application in the work setting. Prepares students to display professionalism and perform within legal and ethical boundaries. Class is taught in English.

31-538-311 Business Practices 1 credit

This course covers the business basics of working as a freelance medical interpreter. Gives a brief overview of marketing, insurance, tax implications, home office, organization, managing finances, legal do's & don'ts, business resources and technology as they pertain to freelance interpreting. Class is taught in English and Spanish.

31-538-312 Medical Practicum 1 credit

Engaging in a specialty area internship to produce a translated product. Includes agency/individual sponsor, internship goals, portfolio project and on-site or supervised training.

31-538-313 Cultural Competency in Medical Setting 1 credit

This course provides an overview of cultural diversity as it relates to the delivery of health care services. Culture, diversity and cultural competence will be examined. Strategies to assess and evaluate the culturally diverse client will be discussed to prepare health care providers to meet the changing needs of clients. Class is taught in English. Prerequisite: 31-538-303.

More detailed and updated information on this program may be available at: matcmadison.edu. The college reserves the right to make changes in the regulations and courses announced in this publication without notice.

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