

City College of San Francisco

HEALTH CARE INTERPRETER CREDIT CURRICULUM



The Curriculum for the Health Care Interpreter Certificate is designed to train bilingual and bicultural students to develop the awareness, knowledge and skills necessary for effective language interpretation in health care settings. Through academic preparation, practical skills training and service in community based health care settings and educational organizations, certificate candidates learn:

- a) roles and responsibilities of a health care interpreter;
- b) basic knowledge of common medical conditions, treatments and procedures;
- c) insight in language and cultural nuances for specific communities;
- d) application of interpreting skills in English and language of service.

Admission Requirements

1. Attend orientation
2. Submit a written application

Required Courses

Students must complete the following sequence of required courses listed below:

HLTH 80 Interpreting in Health Care I –

PREREQ: HLTH 84 – 6.0 units

HLTH 81 Interpreting in Health Care II

COREQ: HLTH 80 – 6.0 units

HLTH 82 Field Experience in Health Care Interpreting

COREQ: HLTH 81 – 3.5 units

HLTH 84 Intro to Interpreting Health Care - **.05 unit**

Recommended Courses

Prior to enrollment or during the first semester:

HIT 51 Basic Medical Terminology – **1 unit**

ANAT 14 Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology - **4 units**

PHYS 12 Introduction to Human Physiology - **4 units**

Requirements for Certificate of Completion

Complete each course with a grade of "C" or higher.

For more information call the program directly at (415) 452-5158 or the Health Science Department at (415) 239-3220.

Interpreting in Health Care Settings

This training program is designed for bilingual individuals who are interested in facilitating linguistic and cultural communication between patients and health care providers. This is a competency based training program involving lectures, discussions, simulations, field work and special student projects. Besides working with the course instructor, students will be working closely with their assigned Language Coach to enhance their linguistic and cultural competencies. Minimal student qualifications include the ability to speak fluently in his/her language of service and are committed to the entire training program which consists of 4 courses. The four courses are briefly described below:



- 1. HLTH 80 Interpreting in Health Care I** - Training for bilingual individuals to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for effective language interpretation in health care settings. Emphasis on the standards of practice of a healthcare interpreter, basic knowledge of common medical conditions, treatments, and procedures, cultural competency for specific communities necessary in the art of interpretation.
- 2. HLTH 81 Interpreting in Health Care II** - Advanced training for bilingual individuals as integral members of the healthcare teams; bridging linguistic and cultural gaps between clients and providers. Specialized focus in healthcare service areas: genetics, mental health, immunology, men's and women's health. Advanced skills: ethical decision making; memory development, patient advocacy, listening skills. Continued development of cultural competency.
- 3. HLTH 82 Field Experience in Health Care Interpreting** - Supervised practicum provides students an opportunity to observe working interpreters, be observed and receive feedback while carrying out professional responsibilities. Knowledge and technical interpreting skills studied in the classroom are applied in healthcare settings. Students provide interpreting for special populations including mental health clients, LGBTQ individuals, the elderly and others.
- 4. HLTH 84 Introduction to Interpreting in Health Care** - Bilingual students are introduced to the field of interpreting in health care. Required for CCSF's Healthcare Interpreting (HCI) Certificate Program, students are introduced to the California HCI Standards, and explore the roles, scopes and practice of healthcare interpreters. The HCI program will be explained and linguistic proficiencies will be assessed.

Resources & other information for HCI: <http://www.ccsf.edu/hci>

[HCI Manuals](#)

[Resources for HCI](#)

[History of the Program](#)

HEALTH CARE INTERPRETERS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION WEBSITES

California Healthcare Interpreting Association

This is California's most important professional association of interpreters. They are responsible for writing California's Interpreter Standards of Practice.

American Translators Association

This is the nation's largest Translators association. They are well-known for their annual and specialized conferences. There is an Interpreters Division that includes medical interpreting.

Northern California Translators Association

This site serves as a focal point for translators in Northern California. They are considered the region's chapter of the American Translators Association.

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care

This organization promotes culturally competent professional health care interpreting as a means to support equal access to health care services for individuals with limited English proficiency.

Society of Medical Interpreters

This organization promotes professionalism and excellence in interpretive services to enhance the provision of health and social services to individuals with limited English proficiency.

Cross Cultural Health Care Program

This organization is responsible for designing one of the earliest training programs for interpreters in health care. They also wrote *Bridging the Gap*, a well-known text used in training health care interpreters.

Diversity Rx

This website provides national information and resources on medical interpreting.

LEP.gov

This governmental website provides policy perspectives on meaningful access for people who are limited English proficient.