




Healthcare Interpreting | American River College

If you are bilingual and are able to speak, read, and write English, you may be qualified for the certificate program in Healthcare Interpreting. The Healthcare Interpreting Certificate Program is designed to prepare bilingual individuals for effective language interpretation and cultural brokering in the healthcare setting.

The program emphasizes roles and responsibilities of the healthcare interpreter; the development of cultural competence in the community and workplace; insight into language and cultural nuances for specific communities; standards and legal requirements for culturally and linguistically appropriate services; ethical decision-making, advocacy and power dynamics in healthcare settings; and career preparation to become an integral member of the healthcare team.

Coursework covers modes and models of interpretation; development of the technical aspects of interpretation; techniques for facilitating and managing the flow of communication; medical terminology and related vocabulary development in language of service; and common medical conditions and associated treatments/procedures in both basic and specialized healthcare service areas. Language coaches are provided to facilitate skills acquisition and preceptor fieldwork experience are required.

[\(/academics/arc-program-road-maps\)](/academics/arc-program-road-maps)

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Certificate of Achievement

Healthcare Interpreting Certificate

The Healthcare Interpreter certificate program is designed to prepare bilingual individuals for effective language interpretation and cultural brokering in the healthcare setting. It emphasizes roles and responsibilities of the healthcare interpreter; the development of cultural competence in the community and workplace; insight into language and cultural nuances for specific communities; standards and legal requirements for culturally and linguistically appropriate services; ethical decision-making, advocacy and power dynamics in healthcare settings; and career preparation to become an integral member of the health care team. Coursework covers modes and models of interpretation; development of the technical aspects of interpretation; techniques for facilitating and managing the flow of communication; medical terminology and related vocabulary development in language of service; and common medical conditions and associated treatments/procedures in both basic and specialized health care service areas. Language coaches are provided to facilitate skills acquisition, and precepted fieldwork experiences are required.

Certificate Requirements

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS
HCI 300	Introduction to Healthcare Interpreting	0.5
AH 110	Medical Language for Health-Care Providers	3
[BIOL 102	Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology (4)	0 - 10
or [BIOL 430	Anatomy and Physiology (5)	

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS
and BIOL 431]	Anatomy and Physiology (5)	
HCI 310	Healthcare Interpreting I	3
HCI 320	Healthcare Interpreting II	3
HCI 330	Healthcare Interpreting III	3
HCI 340	Healthcare Interpreting IV	3
HCI 350	Healthcare Interpreting Fieldwork	3
Total Units:		18.5 - 28.5

Enrollment Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Complete required introductory course, HCI 300, with grade of C or better.
- Demonstrate bilingual proficiency or competence in English and language of service (hearing/speaking and reading/writing) as certified by accepted state or proprietary bilingual exam, or as documented by a standardized interview/essay rubric with program staff, as designated in current application materials.

Enrollment Process

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Receive application materials through participation in HCI 300.
- Submit completed application by deadline, including HCI 300 transcript or proof of completion and documentation of language competency as designated.
- Applicant selection in any given semester is contingent upon a minimum number of students in the cohort for a given language, and community need for the given language, as well as individual applicant qualifications.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- manage all facets of the interpreter role including the flow of the session, cross-cultural communication, conflict management, and the technical aspects of interpretation while conducting patient-provider encounters and pre and post sessions.
- incorporate and apply the profession's codified ethical behaviors related to confidentiality and privacy, completeness and accuracy, professional integrity and professional distance, professional development and cultural competence, and the role of advocacy when patient wellbeing or dignity is at risk.
- integrate culturally sensitive strategies and approaches in working with diverse cultures, subcultures, and special populations.
- analyze career opportunities in health care interpreting, the interpreter's role and scope of practice relative to other healthcare professionals, and the value of ongoing professional development

Gainful Employment

The US Department of Education requires colleges to disclose a variety of information for any program that is eligible for financial aid that "prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation." The following link provides Gainful Employment Disclosure information for this certificate program:

[Gainful Employment Information for Healthcare Interpreting Certificate of Achievement \(https://web.losrios.edu/gainful-emp-info/arc/37126/37126.htm\)](https://web.losrios.edu/gainful-emp-info/arc/37126/37126.htm)

Career Information

Healthcare interpreting job opportunities are available through in-house hospital interpreter services, private vendors who contract with healthcare agencies, or small-business entrepreneurialism and self-employment, both full time or per diem. Venues may include face-to-face, video conferencing, or language phone services with local or at-a-distance connection and contracts.

Healthcare Interpreting (HCI)

HCI 300 Introduction to Healthcare Interpreting

Units:	0.5
Hours:	9 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for bilingual/bicultural individuals interested in exploring the career choice of healthcare interpreter by developing an awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the interpreter in healthcare settings. It addresses required skills related to both language interpretation and cultural brokering and allows consideration of personal interests and aptitudes.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify barriers that may limit access to healthcare services for clients with limited English-language proficiency.
- examine the healthcare interpreter's role, responsibilities, and required skills related to both language access and cultural brokering.
- discuss professionalism, standards and ethics, and the complexities of the working environment for healthcare interpreters.
- explain the coursework outline, prerequisites, student responsibilities, costs, and requirements of the healthcare interpreter program.
- survey personal skills, interests, and aptitudes in relation to the activities and demands of the healthcare interpreter program and profession.

HCI 310 Healthcare Interpreting I

Units:	3
Hours:	48 hours LEC; 18 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	HCI 300 with a grade of "C" or better
Corequisite:	AH 110 and BIOL 102; or BIOL 115 & 116 or BIOL 430 & 431
Advisory:	SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for bilingual individuals interested in developing the awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for effective language interpretation in healthcare settings. It emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of a healthcare interpreter and basic knowledge of common medical conditions, treatments, and procedures in the areas of diagnostics, cardiovascular, renal, ophthalmic, and gastrointestinal specialties. It focuses on insight into language and cultural nuances for specific communities necessary in the art of interpretation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- compare the different ways interpreter services are delivered in healthcare settings.
- differentiate various ways that providers and interpreters can work together to enhance communication with patients.
- explain the interpreter's role in ensuring the patient's rights to confidentiality and informed consent.

- demonstrate beginning skills in modes of interpretation including consecutive, simultaneous, summarization, and sight translation.
- examine how differences in cultural beliefs, cultural practices, or culturally defined roles may arise in the triadic relationship.
- employ appropriate healthcare terminology in English and language of service within clinical scenarios and situations.

HCI 320 Healthcare Interpreting II

Units:	3
Hours:	48 hours LEC; 18 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	HCI 310 with a grade of "C" or better
Advisory:	SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for bilingual individuals. It further develops the awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for effective language interpretation in healthcare settings covered in HCI 310. It emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of a healthcare interpreter and basic knowledge of common medical conditions, treatments, and procedures in musculoskeletal, respiratory, immunologic, and obstetric specialties. It focuses on insight into language and cultural nuances for specific communities necessary in the art of interpretation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate increasing skills in modes of interpretation including consecutive, sight translation, simultaneous, and summarization.
- apply skills for managing the flow of the interpreting session.
- correlate action and response strategies with at least three difficult problem types that can arise in interpretation.
- identify effective ways that differences in communication style may be handled in the triadic relationship.
- examine in growing depth how differences in cultural beliefs, cultural practices, or culturally defined roles may arise in the triadic relationship.
- generate an expanding vocabulary of appropriate health care terminology in English and language of service for use within clinical scenarios and situations.
- analyze and compare the different healthcare systems in the United States and in other countries.

HCI 330 Healthcare Interpreting III

Units:	3
Hours:	48 hours LEC; 18 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	HCI 320 with a grade of "C" or better
Advisory:	SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for bilingual individuals preparing to become an integral member of the health care team, bridging the language and cultural gap between clients and providers. It further develops interpreting skills covered in HCI 320. Topics include specialized health care service areas, such as genetics, pediatrics, and endocrinology. It also emphasizes the development of cultural competency in the community and workplace.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- exhibit progressive skills in the technical aspects of interpretation.

- demonstrate the ability to manage the flow of the interpreting session.
- employ the ethical decision-making method.
- examine traditional health systems, practices, beliefs, and key health issues of specific ethnic communities.
- incorporate culturally sensitive strategies and approaches in working with diverse cultures.
- employ knowledge and skills of effective communication with special emphasis on cross-cultural communication.
- build an increasingly complex vocabulary of health care related concepts and terminology specific to the different health care service areas.
- discover basic referral resources available in the community.

HCI 340 Healthcare Interpreting IV

Units:	3
Hours:	48 hours LEC; 18 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	HCI 330 with a grade of "C" or better
Advisory:	SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for bilingual individuals completing their preparation to become an integral member of the healthcare team, bridging the language and cultural gap between clients and providers. It further enhances interpreting skills covered in HCI 330. Topics include specialized health care service areas such as men's and women's health, mental health, neonatal intensive care, and death and dying. The course also focuses on careers in interpreting and career preparation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- incorporate advancing skills in the technical aspects of interpretation.
- demonstrate proficiency in skills for managing the flow of the interpreting session.
- integrate culturally sensitive strategies and approaches in working with diverse cultures, subcultures, and special populations.
- build an increasingly complex vocabulary of health care related concepts and terminology specific to the different health care service areas.
- compile resources available in the community for specialized needs and groups.
- practice self care management strategies to avoid burnout with reference to the range of psychological, social, and emotional issues that may arise for interpreters in the health care setting.
- examine career opportunities in health care interpreting including community, public health, and acute care settings, and assess personal career goals.
- create an effective professional resume.

HCI 350 Healthcare Interpreting Fieldwork

Units:	3
Hours:	18 hours LEC; 108 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	HCI 330 with a grade of "C" or better

Corequisite:	HCI 340
Advisory:	SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU

This course is designed for interpreters-in-training to facilitate linguistic and cultural communication between healthcare clients and providers. It provides fieldwork experience applying technical interpreting skills covered in HCI 310, 320, 330, and 340. A portion of this course may be offered in a TBA component of 50 - 60 hours which may include directed practice in precepted clinical settings and fieldwork or workplace experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze the interpreter's role and scope of practice relative to other healthcare professionals in the assigned agency and describe the role and scope of practice of these other health team members.
- demonstrate competence in elements of workplace culture and professionalism including work attitude, time management, reporting and documentation, accountability, and maintaining personal and professional boundaries.
- demonstrate basic public speaking abilities in healthcare settings.
- incorporate into practice the profession's codified ethical behaviors related to confidentiality and privacy, completeness and accuracy, professional integrity and professional distance, professional development and cultural competence, and role of advocacy when patient wellbeing or dignity is at risk.
- manage all facets of the interpreter role in the fieldwork setting including cross-cultural communication, conflict management, and the technical aspects of interpretation while conducting patient-provider encounters and the pre and post sessions.
- evaluate and address specific areas of improvement needed for competent interpreting in healthcare settings through application of reflective practice based on professional standards.

Faculty

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