
Professional Medical Interpreter Program

Online Course
Curriculum

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN



Director:

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Culture Advantage is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the California Board of Nursing. Continuing Education Provider 15854 for September 22, 2011 to September 30, 2013. This program is applicable towards continuing education for relicensure of RNs and LPNs.

The Culture Advantage Program prepares graduates of the program to pass the NBCMI national certification exam for medical interpreters.

Professional Medical Interpreter Program

- Taught by healthcare professionals and professional interpreters.
- Approved for continuing education for RNs and LPNs.
- Recognized by the International Medical Interpreters Association.
- Emphasis on medical concepts and terminology to prepare interpreters for the clinical setting
- College-level Principles of Medical Interpreting courses
- Patient-centered preparation for medical interpreters
- Flexible asynchronous instructor-led online and offline assignments
- English-Spanish Program Option
- Three hours of one-on-one mentoring by healthcare professionals
- One hour of live practice session to prepare for the final evaluation
- One and one half hours of live evaluation and coaching in medical interpreting principles
- Optional Live Drills for the Medical Section conducted by a healthcare professional
- Language-neutral Program for all languages with optional concentrations in Arabic, Russian, Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Portuguese with bilingual healthcare professionals as mentors and language partners.
- FAST TRACK Program for healthcare professionals
- Continuing education courses in cultural competency after graduation from the program
- Content and presentation format can be customized based on the organization's needs.

Course Format

Instructor-facilitated online independent study with discussion forums, audio assignments and written quizzes and exams. Written and audio assignments are submitted for every lesson. Each lesson must be completed with satisfactory grade before proceeding to the next. Mentors with healthcare background and professional medical interpreting experience evaluate the students'

fluency, accuracy, and comprehension of medical concepts before access to Part 1, Medical Interpreting Principles, is approved.

Average Completion Time

The average completion time for each lesson is 3 to 4 hours online time. Practice time, assignment time, and additional research time are not included in the average completion time. Completion time depends on various factors such as the participant's previous educational preparation, language skills, Internet skills, Internet connectivity, time constraints, etc. Part 1 must be completed successfully before access is given to Part 2. Certificate of Completion of the Professional Medical Interpreter Program will be awarded upon satisfactory fulfillment of Part 1, Part 2, and the comprehensive Final Oral Exam. Monthly extensions are available if unable to complete the program within the Program Plan.

Requirements:

1. Education: College-level education or equivalent combination of professional experience and education.
2. Language skills: College-level language proficiency in English and a second language (oral and written)* or at least 2 years professional bilingual work experience.
3. Basic Internet skills (Ability to send and receive email, follow links, download and upload files, access to audios and videos, etc.)
4. Basic computer skills (Familiarity and ability to download and read WORD document, PDF files, PowerPoint, printing documents, etc.).
5. Internet access with access to audios and videos.
6. Telephone access.
7. Computer with microphone and audio recording software.
8. Pass Culture Advantage Assessment Test of general knowledge and general language skills.

Course Requirements to receive a certificate of completion:

1. At least 90% grade on all quizzes and exams.
2. Complete all oral and written assignments for Part 1 and Part 2 of the program with a satisfactory rating, or validate language and medical terminology competency for the Fast Track Program.
3. Final Professional Interpreter Skills Evaluation with satisfactory rating.

Professional Medical Interpreter Curriculum (40-70 Hours) – includes both Part 1 and Part 2

- Fast Track Program for Health Care Professionals – 40 Hours
- Medical Interpreter Program (English-Spanish Concentration) – 50 Hours
- Medical Interpreter Program for other languages – 70 Hours (If completing the Language Pack requirements) otherwise, 50 Hours

PART 1: Anatomy and Medical Terminology

The emphasis of the Medical Terminology course is on the accurate interpretation of patient education and information during healthcare encounters requiring the services of a medical interpreter.

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Course Description

Basic Medical Terminology is explained using combination of written lectures, audios, videos, and patient education material. Each lesson includes anatomy, common diagnostic procedures and treatment, and medical specialties.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the locations of the major structures of the human body.
2. Define common medical terminology associated with the major body systems.
3. Explain terminology related to common diagnostic procedures and treatments.

Course Content

1. Introduction to Medical Terminology: Word Combinations
2. Cardiovascular System: Myocardial Infarction, PTCA, CABG. The Emergency Department.
3. Musculoskeletal System: Orthopedics (Back pain, joint replacement and fractures).
4. Gastrointestinal System: Abdominal pain (appendicitis, laparoscopy, abdominal surgery).
5. Endocrine System: Diabetes, Insulin. Medications.
6. Neurovascular System and Sensory Impairments: Stroke, spinal cord injury and rehabilitation.
7. Respiratory System: Pneumonia. Pneumonia. Respiratory Failure.
8. Renal and Reproductive System: Prostate and Kidney disease. Pregnancy and Delivery.
9. Oncology and the Immune System: Blood Disorders. Cancer. HIV/AIDS. The infectious process.

PART 2: Medical Interpreting Principles

The emphasis of the Medical Interpreting Principles course is the understanding and application of medical interpreting concepts in the real-life setting.

Format:

Independent study using the resources provided, supplemented with online discussions and offline assignments. Participants are expected to read and understand the articles and resources independently. Online forums are provided for the participants to discuss questions, share experiences, and provide support. If more in-depth discussion or explanation of course materials is required, private tutoring or coaching is available as an extra service.

Course Content

Medical Interpreter Standards of Practice (IMIA) (6-8 Hours)

Learning outcomes:

1. Summarize the medical interpreter's standards of practice based on the International Medical Interpreter's Association standards.
2. Given a medical encounter scenario, choose the most appropriate interpreter action based on the Standards.
3. Discuss accuracy, confidentiality, impartiality and professionalism within the medical interpreting context.
4. Distinguish between first-person and third-person interpreting; between consecutive and simultaneous interpreting; and between translation and interpreting.
5. Demonstrate professional introduction, pre-session, self-correction, and closure activities.
6. Demonstrate beginner consecutive interpreting skills by accurately and completely interpreting 1-2 sentences into the target language.

The Medical Interpreter's Code of Ethics (4-6 hours)

Learning Outcomes:

1. Summarize the IMIA Code of Ethics.
2. Discuss the similarities and differences between the IMIA Code of Ethics and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) Code of Ethics.
3. Given a case study, explain how the Code of Ethics will guide the interpreter's practice in the healthcare setting.
4. Demonstrate sight translation of at least two documents into the target language.
5. Demonstrate consecutive interpreting skills by interpreting scripted medical encounters from English into the target language.
6. Discuss end-of-life care and advance directives in both languages.
7. Demonstrate consecutive interpreting skills by accurately and completely interpreting 2-3 sentences into the target language.

Roles of the Medical Interpreter (8-10 Hours)

Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss the four roles of a medical interpreter: Conduit, clarifier, culture broker, patient advocate.
2. Analyze a provider-patient interaction and identify the most appropriate role in the interaction using the IMIA standards and code of ethics for medical interpreters.
3. Discuss the differences in knowledge and skills between a trained and an untrained interpreter using the guidelines from the IMIA standards, code of ethics, and roles of the interpreter.

4. Prepare for professional practice by exploring different specialty areas, telephonic and video interpreting modes, and employment options.
5. Demonstrate professional consecutive interpreting skills by interpreting 2-3 sentences into the target language while demonstrating compliance with the Standards, the Ethics, and Roles of the Interpreter.

Professional Medical Interpreter Skills Evaluation

Requirements:

The candidate for graduation must be able to:

1. Demonstrate accuracy, fluency, comprehension and knowledge of medical terminology during the oral exam.
2. Demonstrate accurate interpretation/sight translation of document from the source language into the target language.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the standards, ethics, and roles of the interpreter during a simulated physician-patient-interpreter encounter.
4. Demonstrate consecutive interpreting skills during a simulated physician-patient-interpreter encounter.
5. Demonstrate accuracy and completeness in interpreting 2-3 sentences into the target language.
6. For interpreters with at least 6 months of experience and currently employed in the healthcare setting, Practicum Evaluation may be required in place of the Oral Skills Exam.

** Participants must be able to explain concepts, narrate and describe events, and state opinions without a lot of hesitations, filler statements, pauses, repetitions and self-corrections in both languages. Participants must be able to read and comprehend complex ideas, rephrase, and explain them accurately in their own words in both languages, and apply the concepts to real-life scenarios. Native language speakers must be able to understand participant's communication including pronunciation of non-medical terminology without having to ask for repetition or clarification. Participants may be referred for Language Coaching services or formal language proficiency testing before proceeding with the program. Additional fee may be required.*

Instructors:

Kelly Martinkus, Manager of Program Development-Medical Division, Senior Medical Mentor, Curriculum Developer

Kelly studied medicine in the International Program at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico where she received a bilingual, bicultural medical education. Having learned medicine in English and Spanish, Kelly is able to provide students with a unique perspective of advanced medical terminology in both languages.

She is a member of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) and is an advocate for language specific medical interpreter training.

Marlene Obermeyer, MA, RN, Director, Curriculum Developer, Instructor

Marlene is our director, curriculum designer and instructor for medical terminology and principles of medical interpreting. She has 30 years of experience as a registered nurse working in different specialties. She has designed over 100 contact hours of continuing education for nurses as a Kansas-approved continuing education provider. She is now an approved continuing education provider for RNs and LPNs in the state of California. Marlene is the former Kansas State Representative of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA). She is a member of the IMIA and of the Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators, as well as a member of the Kansas Association of Nursing Continuing Education Providers.

Marlene is the curriculum designer and presenter of the original [IMIA Medical Terminology Boot Camp](#) in 2010 and the second Boot Camp in 2011.

For a list of our current mentors and instructors, please visit the Culture Advantage website.

For more information on our programs, please contact us: director@culture-advantage.com