
Professional Medical Interpreter Program

Online Course
Curriculum

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN



Approval and Accreditation:

1. International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)
2. Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN)

Director:

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN
IMIA Kansas State Representative

Culture Advantage is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Courses are approved for contact hours applicable for relicensure for RNs, LPNs, and LMHTs. Kansas State Board of Nursing: Provider # LTo243-1250.

Professional Medical Interpreter Program

- Taught by licensed healthcare professionals and professional interpreters.
- Approved for continuing education for RNs and LPNs.
- Recognized by the International Medical Interpreters Association.
- Intensive Medical Terminology Training
- 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
- Language-neutral Program for all languages with optional concentrations in Arabic, Russian, Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese, Nepali, and Portuguese in development
- FAST TRACK Program for experienced interpreters and healthcare providers

Course Format

Instructor-facilitated online independent study with discussion forums, telephonic assignments and written quizzes and exams. Lessons are divided into modules. Each module must be completed before proceeding to the next.

Average Completion Time

The average completion time for each lesson is 3-4 hours, however participants may proceed at their own pace. Part 1 must be completed successfully before access is given to Part 2. The average completion time for both Part 1 and Part 2 is 8-10 weeks. Monthly extensions are available if unable to complete the program within 3 months.

Requirements:

1. Education: College-level education or equivalent professional experience and education.
2. Language skills: Advanced language proficiency in English and a second language (oral and written) or at least 2 years professional interpreting experience.
3. Basic Internet skills (email, links, downloading files, audios, videos)
4. Internet access
5. Telephone access
6. Computer with microphone and audio recording software

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Course Requirements to receive a certificate of completion:

1. At least 70% average grade on all quizzes and exams.
2. Complete all oral and written assignments.
3. 90% grade on the Part 1 Final Exam.
4. Pass the oral skills exam.

Curriculum

PART 1: English Spanish Medical Terminology (50-70 Hours)

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

Course Description

Basic Medical Terminology is explained in context using case studies related to the most common diagnoses per body system. Each module 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). Preop, post-op, and Recovery.
5. Endocrine System: Diabetes, Insulin. Medications.
6. Neurovascular System and Sensory Impairments: Stroke, spinal cord injury and rehabilitation. Sensory changes in the aging process.

7. Respiratory System: Pneumonia. Respiratory Failure (The Intensive Care Unit, ventilator support).
8. Renal and Reproductive System: Prostate and Kidney disease. Pregnancy and Delivery.
9. Oncology and the Immune System: Cancer terminology. HIV/AIDS. The infectious process and isolation precautions. Skin conditions. Burns.

PART 2: Medical Interpreting Principles (20-30 Hours)

The emphasis of the Medical Interpreting Principles course is the understanding and application of 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 that are included in the course. 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. Please contact me for this option.

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. Explain the three major task areas of interpreting: interpretation, cultural interface, and ethical behavior.
3. Given a medical encounter scenario, choose the most appropriate interpreter action based on the Standards.
4. Demonstrate fluency and accuracy in 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.

Roles of the Medical Interpreter (8-10 Hours)

Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss the four roles of a medical interpreter: Conduit, clarifier, culture broker, 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.

Oral Skills Exam:

1. Demonstrate accuracy, fluency, comprehension and knowledge of medical terminology and professional medical interpreting principles during a simulated physician-patient-interpreter encounter.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the standards, ethics, and roles of the interpreter during a simulated physician-patient-interpreter encounter.
3. 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.

Instructors:

Rafi Merle, RRT, RPFT, NPS, BS

Rafael is Cardio Pulmonary Director at Yavapai Regional Medical Center in Prescott AZ, with 26 years of experience. He is Registered in Pulmonary Functions, Registered Respiratory Therapist, Registered Neonatal Pediatric Specialist, with BS in Respiratory Care. Experience ranges from working in a Trauma Center, Acute Care, Neonatal ICU, CVICU, ICU, Clinical Faculty Coordinator as well as Systems Coordinator.

Sherrie Kreiser, RN, BSN

Sherrie is our co-instructor in English Medical Terminology and English Language Coach. She has 30 years of experience in emergency care, cardiovascular, surgery, and dialysis. Sherrie is currently a Revenue Integrity Nurse Analyst for a major national healthcare organization.

Marlene Obermeyer, MA, RN

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 is an approved continuing education provider for RNs and LPNs in the state of Kansas. Marlene is the Kansas State Representative of the International Medical Interpreters Association.

Contact us: director@culture-advantage.com