



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Bilingual Translation Testing

1. What is the purpose of the translation proficiency test?

Translators bridge the gap of communication among people who do not speak the same language through converting the written word from one language into another. In order to achieve this, a translator should be fluent in 2 languages and have excellent writing skills in the target language. S/he should also be able to transfer meanings and ideas, not just words, between these languages. The purpose of the *Translation Proficiency Test* is to determine a translation candidate's ability to convey a message from one language into another in both an accurate and clear manner.

2. Whom do I contact to take a test?

Please call [NV AHEC](http://www.nvahec.org) at (703) 549-7060 to schedule your proficiency test. Ask to speak with the Testing and Training Coordinator. Please keep in mind that each test takes between 1.5 – 2 hours and would need to be scheduled in advance. Tests will not be administered without appointments.

3. What will I be tested on?

The test assesses a candidate's ability to comprehend the source text in English and to render it accurately in the target language, keeping in mind the rules of the language. Things we will look for include:

- a. Completeness. Every idea expressed in the original should be reflected in the translation.
- b. Accuracy. Ideas clearly expressed in the source language should not be rendered in an unnecessarily ambiguous, obscure or vague manner in the target language.
- c. Style. Correct and idiomatic usage of the target language, including usage and register.
- d. Grammar. The ability to use idiomatic sentence structures and apply the rules of grammar. Includes word order, tense, agreement of subject, verb, noun and pronoun, etc.
- e. Terminology. The ability to choose the proper term required by the context.
- f. Punctuation. The correct use of punctuation marks.

4. How proficient do I need to be to pass the test?

- The candidate must score 70% or higher to pass the test.
- The candidate must be fully bilingual in 2 languages and have excellent writing skills in the target language.
- An accurately translated message must stay true to its original source language without mistranslation, deletion or addition of information. Furthermore, the message should not be summarized or paraphrased.
- The register (level of language) of the original message must be maintained. Do not change, simplify or complicate the message. For example the sentence, "The patient will experience mild discomfort in the stomach region" must not be simplified as "The patient will have a tummy ache."

5. What do I need to have with me on the day of the test?

You are encouraged to bring along bilingual dictionaries (English and your native language), as well as monolingual dictionaries (one for English and one for your native language). You may also bring along other reference materials of any type, but online resources are not allowed.

6. When will I know my results?

Results will be reported to the applicant within a 2-week evaluation period.

7. I received my test results and I passed. What's next?

The testing and training coordinator at NV AHEC will contact you with the next steps: filling out the registration form and making all necessary payments for the training. After that, all you need to do is show up at the training.

8. What if my question was not answered above?

Please contact [NV AHEC](http://www.nvahec.org) at (703)549-7060 or email the [Testing and Training Coordinator](#).