



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Bilingual Testing

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

Interpreters act as “facilitators” of communication by allowing providers to work in a linguistically and culturally meaningful exchange and by assisting the client in accessing and benefiting from the provided services. In order to serve as a “facilitator,” an interpreter must be able to render a message from one language into another. The purpose of the *Interpreter Proficiency Test* is to determine an interpreter candidate’s ability to convey a message from one language into another in both an accurate and timely manner.

2. Whom do I contact to take a test?

Please call [NV AHEC](http://www.nvahec.org) at (703) 549-7060. Ask to speak to the Testing and Training Coordinator. Please keep in mind that each test takes between 20-30 minutes and would need to be scheduled in advance. Tests will not be administered without appointments.

3. Which test do I need to take?

Please verify with your supervisor which test is required. NV AHEC offers two types of tests:

- *Interpreting in Community Settings*
- *Interpreting in Health and Community Settings.*

Both Express Phone Tests are divided into English and Target-Language segments to determine a candidate’s:

- Fluency in both English and target (non- English) languages
- Ability to transmit a message accurately and on the spot

4. What will I be tested on?

Each test assesses a candidate’s

- 1) Ability to communicate effectively in English. You may be asked to:
 - a. Provide some biographical information
 - b. Express your opinion on a given topic
 - c. Respond quickly to questions without preparation
 - d. Answer listening comprehension questions
- 2) Ability to transmit a message effectively in both an accurate and thorough manner from English into the Target [Non-English] Language.
 - a. Imperative and interrogative statements in common settings
 - b. Knowledge of common general vocabulary needed for LEP interaction in community settings
 - i. Such settings include but are not limited to schools, social services, offices and receptionist desks.
 - c. Accurately interpret and relay statements consecutively, from one language into another, in a grammatically correct manner.
 - i. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, simple safety and instructional information.

*Note that the Health and Community Settings Test will cover the above, and will include also the following:

- Familiarity with and understanding of common medical and anatomical terminology.
- Vocabulary used in common Health Care settings, including but not limited to:
 - a. Doctors' appointments
 - b. Medical offices
 - c. Receptionist desks

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

- The candidate must score an 80% or higher to be considered as passing the test.
- An accurately interpreted message must stay true to its original source language without misinterpretation, 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, "You will experience mild discomfort in the stomach region" must not be simplified as "You will have a tummy ache."
- Colloquial or slang expressions and obscene or crude language *must* be interpreted accurately without editing or attempts to "tone-down" the statements.

6. When will I know my results?

Results for which the target language is Spanish will be reported to the applicant, as well as their supervisor via email, within no more than 5 business days of the test.

All other languages are subject to a maximum of 2-week evaluation period.

7. What if I do not pass?

If you do not pass the test administered over the phone, you have the option to retake the written version of the test. You can not retake the phone version

8. What if I failed the written test retake?

You may only attempt the written test again in 3 months.

9. What if I don't know which test I need to take?

For candidates that are unsure of which version of the test they need to take, the Community Settings Test will be administered. If you discover that you asked to be administered the wrong version of the test, the only retake option is the written version of the Health and Community Settings Test. Please ensure that you have verified and are certain of the version required by your department or supervisor.

10. Can I use a dictionary?

No, the use of a dictionary, or any other resource, is prohibited during the test. A significant delay in providing a response during the test may lead to suspicion of referencing a resource and the test will be terminated without explanation and considered to be a failed test.

11. I received my test results and they are passing. What's next?

If a supervisor believes that it would be beneficial to have a tested employee trained in interpretation skills, they may contact NV AHEC and request to have the employee trained. If you are interested in attending the training, please contact your immediate supervisor and they will advise you on what steps to take next.

12. What if my question was not answered above?

Please direct any additional questions to your supervisor or the NV AHEC Testing and Training Coordinator sgyulamirian@nvahec.org (703)549-7060.