

Legal Interpreting Certificate

The Legal Interpreting (LI) certificate is a 20 credit hour program. It is designed to be completed in three semesters, although there is enough flexibility in the curriculum to extend the time period for additional semesters, if the student prefers a slower pace. The program is organized in a progression of courses leading the student from general concepts to increasingly complex skills and knowledge, culminating in a comprehensive skills exam and a professional practicum. It includes seven courses and is designed to give bilingual (English and Spanish) students the awareness, knowledge and skills necessary to serve as entry-level interpreters and translators in legal settings, including courts, law offices and similar environments. Employment opportunities may also be available with professional employed freelance interpreters. Although the emphasis of the program is legal interpreting, the skills gained could be applied to other interpreting and translating settings in the community, such as conference interpreting and translation of written documents.

Candidates for the Legal Interpreting certificate will be tested in order to measure knowledge and fluency in both English and Spanish, with a requirement of ACTFL Superior (ILR level 3) level in both languages for admission to the program.

(Major Code 5220; State CIP Code 16.0103)

- Legal Interpreting (<http://www.jccc.edu/legal-interpreting>)

First Semester

LI 130	Introduction to Legal Interpreting*	3
LI 140	Legal Interpreting Skills I*	3
LAW 121	Introduction to Law	3
Total Hours		9

Second Semester

LI 150	Legal Interpreting Skills II*	3
LI 160	Spanish Legal Interpreting*	3
LI 170	Legal Procedures and Ethics*	3
Total Hours		9

Third Semester

LI 180	Legal Interpreting Practicum*	2
Total Hours		2

Total Program Hours: 20

Courses

LI 130 Introduction to Legal Interpreting* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: Director approval

Corequisites: LI 140

Prerequisites or corequisites: LAW 121

This course provides a practical and theoretical introduction to the field of bilingual interpreting. Students will study interpreter roles and skills, modes of interpreting and translating, ethical issues, professional standards of practices, cultural competence and applied linguistics. Upon completion, students should have a strong foundation of knowledge regarding the profession of interpreting and should be ready for specific skills training. This course is taught in English. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

LI 140 Legal Interpreting Skills I* (3 Hours)

Corequisites: LI 130

Prerequisites or corequisites: LAW 121

This course develops students' skills in sight translation and consecutive interpreting. Listening and memory skills, communication strategies and intervention techniques are emphasized. Upon completion, students should be able to sight translate short written texts and consecutively interpret non-technical, interactive messages between Spanish and English. This course is taught in English and Spanish. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

LI 150 Legal Interpreting Skills II* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: LI 130 and LI 140 and LAW 121

Corequisites: LI 160

Prerequisites or corequisites: LI 170

This course develops students' skills in simultaneous interpreting, and advanced consecutive interpreting. In addition, through classroom, lab, and field experiences, students practice the three interpretation modes they have learned in the program and improve all aspects of their interpreting while forming good professional habits. Self-assessment, professional growth and development of a personal philosophy of interpreting is stressed. This course is taught in English and Spanish. 3 hrs. lecture/wk.

LI 160 Spanish Legal Interpreting* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: LI 130 and LI 140 and LAW 121

Corequisites: LI 150 and Prerequisite or

This course develops the knowledge, techniques, and practices needed to function as a bilingual interpreter in a legal environment. Students will be introduced to basic legal situations, procedures, order of events, with vocabulary and terminology in both English and Spanish. Upon completion, students should be able to apply legal interpreting techniques in a variety of legal settings. This course is taught in English and Spanish. 3 hrs. lecture/ wk.

LI 170 Legal Procedures and Ethics* (3 Hours)

Prerequisites: LAW 121

The course will acquaint Legal Interpreting students with the major characteristics of civil and criminal litigation. Students will be able to explain the various types of procedures regarding civil and criminal litigation process and their application. The student will also be able to explain ethical rules and standards governing the legal profession. 3 hrs. lecture/ wk.

LI 180 Legal Interpreting Practicum* (2 Hours)

Prerequisites: LI 130 and LI 140 and LI 150 and LI 160 and LI 170 and LAW 121

Students will observe and interpret at assigned legal facilities, participate in class discussions about their interpreting experiences and develop a personal philosophy of interpreting. Both classroom meetings and fieldwork are required for this class. 1 hr. lecture, 3hrs. field study/ wk.