

# **CLASSIFICATION OF INTERPRETERS WHO WORK IN LANGUAGES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO COURT INTERPRETING ORAL EXAMINATION**

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## **Classification Levels for “Registered” Interpreters**

Interpreters who work in a language for which there is no court interpreting oral exam are considered “registered” interpreters. They are not “approved” or “certified. This is because there has been no objective demonstration, through a valid and reliable test, of their court interpreting skills. They are classified according to categories similar to those of approved interpreters: Registered-Master, Registered-Journey and Registered-Conditional. The vast majority of newly registered interpreters working in languages for which there is no court interpreting oral exam start at the Registered-Conditional level.

## **Classification is Provisional**

All classifications for persons working in these untested languages are provisional until such time as an oral exam becomes available. When an oral performance exam becomes available in a particular language, then all persons registered for that language, regardless of classification, will be required to take the exam and the results will determine their classification and eligibility to work in the courts.

## **Classification in Multiple Languages**

Languages are treated individually for credentialing purposes; accordingly, classification for persons who interpret in more than one language is also determined individually by language. Classification criteria detailed below must be met for each language. Any course work for a language neutral course, including preparation for and interpreting work during the class, must be for the language in which an upgrade is sought. You must submit a separate course completion for each language you are seeking an upgrade in. Additionally, if persons:

- a. interpret both in a language for which there is an oral exam and another language for which there is not ***and***
- b. indicate either that their stronger language is the language for which there is an oral exam or that they have roughly equal command of both languages, then the classification for the language for which there is no oral exam will usually be the same as that for the language with an oral exam or lower. The classification will never be higher.

## **Upgrade in Classification**

An interpreter must meet or exceed each of the six classification criteria detailed below to receive an upgrade. Interpreters registered for one year and meeting the test requirements for the next classification level may apply for an upgrade. Proofs of the testing, training, and experience criteria are required.

To apply for an upgrade in classification, interpreters must submit a package that includes a letter addressing each criterion, along with required proofs, a resume or CV, and a completed [court interpreting experience form](#) for each language they wish to be upgraded in. To request a list of on-line course suggestions, please send an e-mail to [LangSvcs.mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:LangSvcs.mailbox@njcourts.gov). Submissions should be sent to: Language Services Section, Administrative Office of the Courts, 25 Market Street, P.O. Box 988, Trenton, NJ 08625.

## **Training Criteria**

Specific course options for the training criterion are detailed below. If applicants are able to find other courses they believe are equivalent (i.e., on-line courses, etc.), they should provide a course syllabus to Language Services for review and possible approval as a substitution. The burden of proof of equivalency is on the applicant. Several on-line courses are listed on our website.

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### **Classification Criteria**

The table below summarizes the classification criteria for interpreters working in a language for which no court interpreting oral exam is available.

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION LEVELS</b>		
	<b>Registered-Master</b>	<b>Registered-Journey</b>	<b>Registered-Conditional</b>
Written test	85%+	80-84%	70-79%
Spoken English Test (SET)	60+	49-59	44-48
Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	12/12+	12	11
Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)	Detailed experience working as a court interpreter	Detailed experience working as a court interpreter	Detailed experience working as a court interpreter
Certification and other exams*	Has passed all relevant available exams	No pertinent exams available or not all passed	No pertinent exams available or passed
Training	Has completed 6 credits of interpreting classes with grades of A or B**	Has completed 3 credits in simultaneous interpreting with grade of A or B***	No formal training
Experience (form at link below)	Has extensive and diverse court interpreting experience	Some professional court interpreting experience	Little or no professional court interpreting experience

\* The "Certification and other exams" criterion may include interpreting, language proficiency, or translation credentialing exams. This criterion may be waived if no pertinent exams are available.

\*\* The 6 credits must be either of the following sets of courses or an equivalent on-line set approved by LSS. Course work for a language neutral class, including preparation for and interpreting work during the class, must be for the language in which an upgrade is sought (<https://njcourts.gov/public/prodevhtml>):

1. Two 3-credit courses at Rutgers University:
  - a. 16:617:533, Interpreting
  - b. 16:617:535, Court Interpreting
2. Two 3-credit courses at Union County College:
  - a. INT 101, Interpreting I; and
  - b. INT 102, Interpreting II (sight and simultaneous interpreting)

\*\*\* The 3 credits may be either of the following or an equivalent on-line course approved by LSS. Course work for a language neutral course, including preparation for and interpreting work during the class, must be for the language in which an upgrade is sought (<https://njcourts.gov/public/prodev.html>):

1. One 3-credit course:
  - a. at Rutgers University, 16:617:533, Interpreting
  - b. at Union County College: INT 102, Interpreting II (sight and simultaneous interpreting)

**Court Interpreting Experience Form** available at [https://www.njcourts.gov/forms/11165\\_court\\_int\\_exp.pdf](https://www.njcourts.gov/forms/11165_court_int_exp.pdf).