Spanish-English Health Care Interpreting Program

Updated 8/30/16

Information for Prospective Students

Fall 2017

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Introduction

Thanks for your interest in the Health Care Interpreting certificate program at JCCC. We hope that the following information will help answer your questions about becoming a health care interpreter and provide the information you need about our certificate program.

Health Care Interpreting (HCI) is designed to give bilingual (English and Spanish) students the awareness, knowledge and skills necessary to serve as entry-level interpreters and translators in health care settings, including hospitals, clinics, medical offices and similar environments. Program completers should be eligible for employment as salaried or on-call staff interpreters, or as self-employed freelance interpreters. Employment opportunities may also be available with professional interpreting and translating service companies. Although the emphasis of the program is medical interpreting, the skills gained could be applied to other interpreting and translating settings in the community, such as conference and business interpreting and translation of written documents.

The Need for Trained Interpreters

There is a serious need in Johnson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area for a Spanish-English medical interpreting training program. The Kansas City region experienced phenomenal growth in Spanish-speaking residents in the 1990s and the trend is expected to accelerate over the next 20 years. According recent figures, at least 120,000 people of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity currently reside in the metropolitan area, approximately 40,000 of them in Johnson County and Wyandotte County. These figures are expected to continue to increase, with Johnson County leading the area in the rate of growth of Spanish-speaking residents. Many of these residents do not speak English fluently, especially the 2,000 or more new immigrants who arrive in the metropolitan area each year. As a result, an unprecedented need exists for professionally trained Spanish-English interpreters, far outstripping the supply. The employment outlook for interpreters is strong, especially for part-time and on-call positions. [http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/20/2036000.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/20/2036000.html).

Description of the Program

The Health Care Interpreting program is a 20-credit-hour vocational program leading to a certificate of completion. It is designed to be completed in three semesters, although there is enough flexibility in the curriculum to extend the time period for several 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 five courses developed specifically for the program plus two courses offered through other departments. The latter two courses, HC 130 Medical Terminology for Health Care Professions and HC 101 Introduction to Health Care Delivery, do not have prerequisites and could be taken at any time prior to completion of the program. However, HC 130 must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140.

Please note that you must be admitted into the HCI program. Completion of HC 130 and HC 101 does not guarantee admission into the program.
The HCI program has its own unique course prefix (HCI) and curriculum. HCI students should enroll only in 5 courses with the HCI prefix, plus HC 130 and HC 101.

The HCI curriculum is based on national standards and the recommendations of local experts in the field. Through academic course work, practical skills training and field work in a community medical setting, students will learn:

- Professional roles and responsibilities of medical interpreters
- Common medical conditions, treatments, protocols and procedures
- Medical terminology in both English and Spanish
- The importance of providers’ and clients’ cultural beliefs and values
- Intercultural communication, cross-cultural mediation and conflict resolution
- A code of ethics and professional standards of practice for interpreters
- Application of interpreting and translating skills in English and Spanish
- Legal aspects of interpreting and potential legal liabilities of interpreters

**Requirements for Admission**

Students must meet all admissions requirements established by Johnson County Community College. Prospective students should visit the Admissions page at jccc.edu for more information and an application. You may call the Admissions Office at 913-469-3803 if you have any questions.

**In addition to being accepted by the college, students wishing to enroll in the HCI program must demonstrate native or near-native fluency in both English and Spanish before enrolling in any of the program’s courses.**

The supervisor of the Health Care Interpreting Program will evaluate candidates using the tests defined below. Candidates must demonstrate that they are able to use both English and Spanish with equal fluency.

**Assessment Interview: Documentation of Fluency**

Students must first speak to the HCI supervisor in order to set up testing.

Fluency can be difficult to assess. Candidates will have three skills tested: reading, writing and speaking. The English and Spanish reading and writing tests take place in JCCC’s Testing Center. This is scheduled by the HCI supervisor. These skills will be evaluated during interviews with the program facilitator and HCI instructors. Testing of all three skills is required prior to enrollment in courses. The top 10-12 students with the best combined reading, writing and speaking test scores will be admitted into the program, and will be allowed to enroll in program courses. Those students will begin the HCI program in the fall.

The oral proficiency exam will be conducted by the HCI supervisor at no cost to the student. An ACTFL OPIc exam will be given at cost to the student (approximately $70). Please visit [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org) for details about ACTFL testing.
A 3-step testing process will measure English and Spanish skills.*

**Step 1** – All exams are to be taken in the JCCC Testing Center, 3rd floor of the Student Center building.

- Candidate must have a JCCC student ID number in order to test in the Testing Center.
- No testing during finals week.

ONLINE: Visit the Assessment Test Study Guides page at jccc.edu

**ENGLISH TESTING**

- Minimum qualifying ACCUPLACER test scores, qualifying ACT scores or successful completion of Composition I with a C grade or better.
- Short Essay – minimum score of 80%. Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in English. A scoring grid created by the HCI supervisor will be used.

**SPANISH TESTING**

- Spanish Placement – minimum test score of 500 and preferred score of 640 or higher on the reading exam **AND**
- Short Essay – minimum score of 80%. Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in Spanish. A scoring grid created by the HCI supervisor will be used.

The Spanish foreign language placement is the SCAPE test, part of the CAPE (Computer Adaptive Placement Exam). It was developed by Brigham Young University. It measures students’ current skill levels in Spanish. If a student takes the placement exam more than once, the test scores will be averaged together.

The short essay exam was created by the HCI supervisor.

**STEP 2** – An oral proficiency interview by appointment with the HCI supervisor.

Candidates will meet with the HCI supervisor for an oral proficiency interview if their reading and writing tests meet the minimum requirements as explained above.

Students will be ranked after completing Step 2 of the testing process. The top 10-12 students will be advised to take the ACTFL OPIc exam (estimated cost - $70). Once the OPIc has been scheduled with the supervisor, it must be completed within 10 days or you will be required to pay the $70 fee again.

**NOTE:** Candidates will be required to test in their non-dominant language. Candidates will either take the ACTFL OPIc in English or Spanish.

**STEP 3** – Students who receive an Advanced Mid, or higher ranking from ACTFL and meet the requirements as outlined in steps 1 and 2 will be admitted into the program. Students who do not receive an Advanced Mid or better on the ACTFL OPIc, but who have met the requirements as outlined in steps 1 and 2 may be considered for the program.

- A second oral proficiency interview with the HCI instructor(s) will decide whether or not to admit the student into the program.
- Students who do not receive the minimum ACCUPLACER scores may be considered as candidates if they take English or English as a Second Language classes the first semester along with the HCI courses. Those who receive a letter of recommendation from an English or an EAP professor at JCCC may also be considered for the HCI program.

*Students who have completed the JCCC Legal Interpreting Program (LI) will not need to participate in the 3-step testing process to measure English and Spanish skills. They may begin the program upon the recommendation of the LI professor.
CURRICULUM

Seven required courses in the certificate program include:

**HCI 110  Introduction to Interpreting (3 credits)**

Introduction to Interpreting is the most basic course. It provides students with practical and theoretical knowledge about the field of interpreting as a profession and the qualities demanded of professional interpreters. Content includes:
1. Roles and responsibilities of interpreters
2. Ethical issues confronting interpreters and adherence to a code of ethics
3. Business and professional standards of practice
4. Cultural competence and appreciation of cultural diversity
5. Linguistics

**HCI 120  Interpreting Skills I (3 credits)**

Interpreting Skills I introduces students to the practice of interpreting and develops their sight translation and consecutive interpreting abilities. Topics include:
1. Sight translation skills
2. Listening and memory
3. Consecutive interpretive skills
4. Communication strategies for improved interpreting success
5. Organization and intervention techniques

**HCI 130  Interpreting Skills II (3 credits)**

Interpreting Skills II builds increasingly complex interpreting skills and introduces students to concepts of written translation. Students will practice all of their interpreting skills in class, develop a personal philosophy of interpreting, and demonstrate their mastery of interpreting through a comprehensive skills exam. Topics include:
1. Prerequisite skills needed for simultaneous interpreting
2. Simultaneous interpreting
3. Fundamentals of written translation
4. Comprehensive skills exam
5. Developing a personal philosophy of interpreting

**HCI 140  Spanish Medical Interpreting (3 credits)**

Spanish Medical Interpreting focuses specifically on Spanish-English interpreting in a medical environment to prepare students for work in that highly specialized and demanding field and to make them ready for the interpreter practicum course that follows. Course content includes:
1. Roles and responsibilities of health care interpreters
2. Cultural competence in health care situations
3. Spanish medical terminology
4. Mental health interpreting
5. Practice interpreting in mock medical situations

*HC 130 must be taken prior to or along with HCI 140.*
**HCI 180  Medical Interpreting Practicum (2 credits)**

The Medical Interpreting Practicum course serves as the culmination of the program. It gives students an opportunity to interpret in genuine medical settings under the supervision of practicing professional interpreters and to discuss their experiences with other students, faculty and their practicum supervisors. The course emphasizes:

1. Demonstration of mastery of medical interpreting skills
2. Knowledge and understanding of the interpreter’s working environment
3. Continued development of a personal philosophy of interpreting

In addition, the following two HC courses, currently offered through other departments, are required:

**HC 130  Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions (3 credits)**

This course will introduce the student to a systematic method for learning, understanding and applying medical terminology. The course will provide an overview regarding the development of medical terms, and outline medical terminology pertaining to each of the body systems, selected illnesses, diagnostic procedures and pharmacology. This course is designed for the student who is interested in any facet of the healthcare industry, and is a required course for several certificate programs. Some portions of this course will require computer utilization and independent online work.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define the three basic word parts in building medical terms
2. Spell and pronounce medical terms accurately and correctly
3. Identify the prefix and root in any medical term
4. Decipher and utilize approved medical abbreviations
5. Define medical terms associated with the anatomy and physiology of body systems, diagnostic studies, illnesses, pharmacology and healthcare professions
6. Outline basic roles of healthcare professionals
7. Utilize reference sources to research medical terminology
8. Demonstrate skills in utilizing the computer

*This may be taken prior to other classes, but must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140.

**HC 101  Introduction to Health Care Delivery (3 credits)**

Introduction to Health Care Delivery acquaints students with the American health care delivery system, prepares students to become members of the health care delivery team, and provides needed information about the medical workplace. Content includes:

1. Components of the health care delivery system, including organization, economics, consumers and health care providers
2. Personal and professional safety and workplace skills
3. Communication and team strategies when working with patients, families and other health care professionals
4. Legal and ethical issues and the ability to apply critical thinking skills to analyze them
5. A career education plan and career profile
Course Sequence

See the examples below for what a typical three-semester sequence might look like:

### Fall
- HCI 110  Introduction to Interpreting
- HCI 120  Interpreting Skills I
- HC 101  Introduction to Health Care Delivery  
  **OR** HC 130

### Spring
- HCI 130  Interpreting Skills II
- HCI 140  Spanish Medical Interpreting
- HC 130  Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions  
  **AND** Shadowing  
  **OR** HC 101

### Summer/Fall
- HCI 180  Medical Interpreting Practicum

**Note:** HC 130 Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions and HC 101 Introduction to Health Care Delivery have no prerequisites and could be taken prior to other courses in the program, thus reducing the student’s course load during the program. However, HC 130 must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140. HC 101 is only offered in the fall.

Grades

Students must earn a grade of C or higher in each of the program’s courses to continue in the program. Students must demonstrate the ability to interpret and translate with at least 80% accuracy and successfully complete a required practicum class in order to earn the certificate of completion.

Certificate

Please note that this rigorous program requires that students dedicate time studying, attending class, learning new vocabulary daily and participating in class. Students who do not meet the criteria as outlined above will not be permitted to begin the practicum. Students must receive a recommendation from the HCI instructor(s) before enrolling in HCI 180.

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites

Courses will be taken in the order of their course numbers, with the following pre- and corequisites:

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Corequisites</th>
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<tr>
<td>HCI 110</td>
<td>Supervisor Approval</td>
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<td>HCI 140</td>
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<tr>
<td>HC 101</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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All students who do their shadowing and practicum assignments at assigned hospitals must complete specific requirements from a check-off list by the due date of December 1 before going to the hospitals.

Although not required, the supervisor strongly recommends that students take ENGL 121 Composition I and/or RDG 127 College Reading Skills. The supervisor may also suggest that students enroll in a Spanish course for heritage speakers, FL 288, Spanish for Heritage and Advanced Speakers of Spanish.
All students must have completed the following and provided the facilitator a copy of all by November 1:

- Signed the two confidentiality agreements.
- Completed and paid for background checks. You may not have any negative findings.
- Provided proof of up-to-date immunizations which include two TB tests and readings or a 2-view chest X-ray with reading, three Hepatitis B vaccinations, two MMR vaccinations, two varicella immunizations, this year’s flu shot and a Tdap that is no more than 10 years old. OR you may ask for titers (blood work for immunizations – you may not use bloodwork for TB tests).
- Completed the online HIPAA training and printed out proof of each completed test.
- Completed a 65 question test and provided the answer key.

Students must also provide proof of health insurance by January 1.

Once a student has completed all coursework, submitted the above documents and enrolled in HCI 180, the student must have:

- Completed the application for graduation form.
More information on the Health Care Interpreting program can be found on the jccc.edu website, by searching for “health care interpreting” in the search box in the upper right hand corner.

**Timeline for Health Care Interpreting Program – Fall only**
Immediately apply for admissions to JCCC and generate a student ID number.

If you have questions or need help enrolling in a class, call Enrollment Assistance at 913-469-3803.

***Enroll in HC 130 and HC 101 classes and contact Christina Wolff. (Fall enrollment begins in April.)

**September-March**
- Advising, testing, face-to-face interviews.
- Send transcripts to JCCC.

**April**
- Enroll in HC 130 and HC 101.

**April-May**
- Selected candidates will sit for the ACTFL OPIc in their non-dominant language.
- Final candidates selected for the Health Care Interpreting Program.
- Enroll in HCI 110 and HCI 120 after a waiver is issued.

**May-July**
- Additional candidates considered only if there is space available in the program.

**August**
- Begin the HCI Program.
- Meet to discuss the check-off list as needed.

**November 1**
- Check-off lists completed and all paperwork submitted to the HCI supervisor.

**January 1**
- Provide proof of health insurance.

Please note: There is no testing in the Testing Center during finals week.
AM I READY Check-Off List

- Generate a JCCC student ID number
- Complete the Personal Admissions Plan orientation
  (This is a requirement for first-time students.)
- Complete the International and Immigrant Student Services orientation if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Visit the Success Center page at jccc.edu
- Download the online booklet
- Contact Christina Wolff
- Meet with an advisor
- Talk to Financial Aid
- Submit a transcript to JCCC
- Enroll in non-interpreting classes that do not have prerequisites (HC 101, HC 130)
- Print off a letter for the testing center (as outlined in step 1 of the testing process)
- Take the placement tests in the testing center
- Meet with Christina Wolff for a face-to-face interview
- Pay for the OPIc and sit for the OPIc if requested to do so
- Enroll in the program classes if requested to do so.
- Enroll in other courses that are not part of the HCI program such as HC 130, HC 101, ENGL 121, RDG 127 or FL 288, Spanish for Heritage and Advanced Speakers of Spanish.
- Update immunizations.
- Begin the check-off lists for TMC and CMH (August 1).
- Submit check-off lists (November 1).
- Submit proof of health insurance (January 1).
- Complete HCI 110, 120, 130, 140; HC 101, 130 with a C or better in all courses.
- Enroll in HCI 180 per instructor recommendation.
- Fill out an application for graduation once you enroll in HCI 180.
Please direct questions about the program to:

**Prof. Christina Wolff**  
Foreign Language Department – Box 31  
Johnson County Community College  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299  
913-469-8500, ext. 3513  
cdecasqu@jccc.edu

or

**Dr. Larry Reynolds, Dean**  
Communications – Box 31  
Johnson County Community College  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299  
913-469-8500, ext. 3765  
lreynold@jccc.edu

Information about Johnson County Community College and applications for admission are available at:

Johnson County Community College  
Admissions Office – Box 41  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299  
913-469-3803  
Web: [www.jccc.edu](http://www.jccc.edu)

Advising questions?  
Contact  
Gloria Rosso  
rgloria@jccc.edu
You must have a JCCC student ID. If you do not have an ID, visit the Admissions page at jccc.edu and complete an online application.

**Fluency: Spanish and English**

Contact Christina Wolff at 913-469-8500, ext. 3513, and let her know that you are interested in either the LI or HCI program. Print off her letter and take it to the Testing Center (visit the Testing Services page at jccc.edu for the center’s hours). Plan to spend 2-3 hours at JCCC. Show the employee the letter and state that you are testing for the Legal Interpreting Program or Health Care Interpreting Program for Christina Wolff.

Testing:
- **English** – Minimum qualifying ACCUPLACER or ACT scores or successful completion of Composition I with a C grade or better. Short Essay.
- **Spanish** – Placement exam and Short Essay

Once you have finished testing, contact Christina Wolff at 913-469-8500, ext. 3513, and return this application to cdecasqu@jccc.edu.

**Do your best and take your time.**

**STEP 2 | Face-to-Face Interview with Program Supervisor**

All scores are used to rank students. The top 10 students for each program will be contacted to complete Step 3.

**STEP 3 | OPIc Test, $70 fee**

Candidates may be advised to take an oral proficiency exam offered by ACTFL. Visit www.actfl.org for details about OPIc tests.

**Brochure information:**

Brochure information is available on the jccc.edu website; search for the Health Care Interpreting or Legal Interpreting program pages.

**General advising questions?**

Contact Gloria Rosso at rgloria@jccc.edu.