

2011/2012



ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

# SPANISH/ENGLISH INTERPRETATION (SEI)

*"The only Spanish/English Interpretation (Legal/Court) certificate program in the Bay Area."*

## SF STATE Extended Learning

In partnership  
with the University Center  
at Cañada College  
in Redwood City

**SF State Downtown Campus**  
835 Market Street, 6th Floor  
(at Powell St. BART/Muni)  
www.cel.sfsu.edu | 415-817-4223

**University Center at Cañada College**  
4200 Farm Hill Boulevard  
Redwood City, CA  
www.canadacollege.net/  
university/interpretation.html  
415-817-4223

This program is designed to develop the interpreting skills necessary for service in the courts, in state agencies, and in the medical evaluation system of workers compensation.

### ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- Introduction to Interpreting .....
- Consecutive Interpretation .....
- Simultaneous Interpretation .....
- Sight Translation .....
- Advanced Interpreting and Oral Examination Prep Course

*"Para que la verdad no se pierda en la traducción"*  
*"So the truth is not lost in translation"*



*NOTE:* Special Admission Waiver for Administrative Hearing Interpreters,  
Judicial Council approved for CIMCE credit

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# SPANISH/ENGLISH INTERPRETATION

Legal/Court



## QUICK FACTS

### Program Length

The program is designed so participants can complete requirements in 15 to 22 months.

### Program Cost

The cost of the six required courses is approximately \$3,600 plus a \$50 application fee. Texts and optional courses are additional.

### Program Requirements

- Passing score on Bilingual Entrance Exam
- Minimum of 56 academic semester units in any discipline (approximately two years of college).

### Admission

After you have been notified that you have passed the Bilingual Entrance Exam, complete and return an application for admission, with a copy of your exam results and a check for the non-refundable application fee of \$50. Call (415) 817-4223 for an application.

### Contact Information

SF State Downtown Campus  
Baseemah Rahman  
(415) 817-4223, brahman@sfsu.edu  
[www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation](http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation)

Cañada College  
Baseemah Rahman  
415-817-4223, brahman@sfsu.edu  
[www.canadacollege.net/university/interpretation.html](http://www.canadacollege.net/university/interpretation.html)

## ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Spanish/English Interpretation Certificate Program is designed to develop the interpreting skills necessary for performance as a Spanish/English interpreter in the courts, in state agencies, and in the medical evaluation system of workers' compensation. It is specifically designed to prepare participants to pass the State of California Court Interpreter Certification Exam. The program faculty are state-certified court interpreters.

### The Court Interpreter

"The primary role of a state-certified court interpreter is to interpret for defendants or witnesses in superior courts (criminal, civil and juvenile proceedings), and for depositions. Court assignments include arraignments, preliminary hearings and all aspects of trials through and including sentencing. Examples of duties include interpreting intense cross-examinations and complex jury instructions; statements by judges, attorneys and expert witnesses who frequently use legal and technical terminology; and language that may seem graphic or offensive. Interpreters must precisely, accurately and completely interpret for individuals with a high level of education and an expansive vocabulary as well as persons with very limited language skills **while preserving the complete meaning of the source language utterances**. Interpreters are also responsible for sight translating written documents, often of a legal nature, from English into Spanish and vice versa."  
-Judicial Council of California

### Career Opportunities

Interpreter examinations are mandated for employment in courts and state agencies. Once an interpreter passes the California Court Certification Exam, s/he will be able to work in the state courts and freelance for state agencies, health organizations, private companies, law firms, and interpreting agencies. Many attorneys in private practice now use only certified court interpreters for depositions, personal injury, and workers' compensation cases.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 1) Academic Background

Although a B.A. degree is desirable, the minimum admission requirement is 56 academic semester units (approximately two years of college) from an accredited institution.

### 2) Bilingual Proficiency: Entrance Exam

Applicants must pass an examination designed to verify bilingual and bi-literate proficiency at the **university** level. This multiple choice exam tests for Spanish and English ability at a high level in translation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary and reading comprehension. To register for the exam, go to: [www.sfsu.edu/~testing](http://www.sfsu.edu/~testing), or register in person at the SF State Testing Center, HSS Bldg., room 206, main campus, 1600 Holloway Avenue.

### Waiver of Requirements

1) those who have passed the written portions of the federal exam are exempt from taking the Bilingual Entrance Exam.

2) certified administrative hearing interpreters may register for any course in the program with the consent of the instructor without fulfilling any of the admission requirements.

**Note:** academic degrees with Spanish or English majors cannot be substituted for any exam requirement.

### Application for Admission

After you pass the Bilingual Entrance Exam, you may apply for admission to the program. Fill out the application, attach a check for \$50 (non-refundable), and enclose your written exam score. For an application, call (415) 817-4223.

### First Course: Introduction to Interpreting

After your application has been accepted, you may register for the first introductory course in the program. Those who pass this course will automatically be admitted to the program.

### Cost of Program

The cost of all six courses required to earn the certificate will be approximately \$3,600 plus a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Fees are paid on a course-by-course basis each semester and are subject to change. Texts and elective courses are additional.

### Academic Degree Credit

The required courses in this program carry full upper-division academic credit. Some courses may be applied toward a Spanish degree with faculty advisor approval. For further information, contact the SF State Spanish Language Department at (415) 338-1421. Courses taken on a credit/no credit basis may not be used towards a Spanish major.

## FAQ

### Where do I find out the dates for the current classes and course descriptions?

Go to [www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation](http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation) or [www.canadacollege.net/university/interpretation.html](http://www.canadacollege.net/university/interpretation.html)

### How can I prepare for the bilingual entrance exam?

For sample questions, go to [www.sfsu.edu/~testing](http://www.sfsu.edu/~testing), then to "Tests," "Bilingual," and "Preparation." For review of grammar, any English or Spanish grammar book would be useful. For additional study, go to <http://www.prometric.com/california/CACourtIntPrep.htm> and click on "Sample Exam (English/Spanish)," or go to [www.ncsonline.org/d-research/fcice\\_exam/index.htm](http://www.ncsonline.org/d-research/fcice_exam/index.htm) and click on 'Examinee Handbook' pp. 23-24.

### If my language skills are not strong enough to be admitted to the program at this time, what can I do to improve my skills?

Read as much as possible and as widely as possible in both English and Spanish, including novels, plays, newspapers, and magazines. Read Spanish periodicals directly from Spanish-speaking countries rather than ones from the US, where styles tend to be heavily influenced by English. Study abroad is also recommended.

### Will this program be of value to me if I do not want to become a state certified court interpreter?

Yes. The interpreting skills learned in this program can help in becoming a medical or administrative hearing interpreter for possible employment with social service agencies, hospitals, interpreter agencies, private attorneys for depositions and client interviews.

### Where can I find out more information about the State of California certified court interpreter exams and the profession?

Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts "Court Interpreter Program"  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: 1-866-310-0689  
[www.courts.ca.gov/courtinterpreters](http://www.courts.ca.gov/courtinterpreters)

### CYCLE OF COURSES

Intro to Interpreting

Sight Translation

Consecutive Interpretation I

Simultaneous Interpretation I

Consecutive Interpretation II

Simultaneous Interpretation II

Advanced Interpreting & Oral Exam  
Prep Course (optional) \*

Fall

Spring

Summer

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\* scheduled in accordance with State Exam

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- CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETATION
- SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION
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- SF State Extended Learning offers access to hundreds of classes in a wide variety of fields. Call (415) 405-7700 for a free catalog.
- We purchase mailing lists from many different sources and cannot always eliminate name duplications. If you receive more than one brochure, please pass one on to a friend.
- SF State Extended Learning is self-supporting.