A career with a future—will you be ready for it?

The U.S. Census Bureau reports there are now over 31 million Latinos in the United States. Projected to grow to 96.5 million by 2050, they will constitute 25% of the total U.S. population, and these proportions are higher in California. The substantial immigrant contingent in this population presents diverse language needs. Full access to the legal system is vital to their full participation as citizens. In California, non-native speakers of English now have a constitutional right to an interpreter in criminal court hearings. Meanwhile, the provision of interpreting services is growing in the medical and corporate sectors.

Bilingual persons who are trained to service this population professionally have a competitive advantage. They can become legal interpreters, work as interpreters and translators in other areas, or integrate these skills into other professions which interface with the language-needs population. Legal interpreter training generally affords the most rigorous development of the three major modes of interpreting.

Why should you consider the Cal State L.A. Interpretation and Translation program?

- To work in criminal courts, interpreters must gain certification by passing a State exam which requires careful preparation. The instructors in Cal State L.A’s L.I.T. program hold State and/or Federal certification and are experts in the preparation of exam candidates.

- In addition to California criminal law interpreting, the L.I.T. program covers civil legal interpreting, contract translation, administrative hearings and related civil areas, and prepares you for the American Translators Association certification exam.

- Students interested in medical interpreting can take additional classes focusing on hospital and clinical settings.

- All L.I.T. classes are approved by the Judicial Council of California for CIMCE credit (court interpreter continuing education).

- Teachers and other government workers use the training to prepare for bilingual teaching tests and certifications.

- Classes meet on Saturday mornings and the content load is paced to accommodate the schedules of working people.

This Certificate program is sponsored by the College of Professional and Global Education. It trains students for county, state, and federal examinations and qualifications in interpreting and translation, and for autonomous private sector work.

The program consists of seven required courses (28 non-degree credit quarter units) in legal interpreting and translation which must be taken in sequence. Optional medical interpreting courses are also offered.
Program Content

Required Courses
(all courses are 4 quarter units)

- ML790A. Contrastive Grammatical Analysis of English and Spanish
- ML790B. Translation and Interpreting: Elements & Methods
- ML791A. Translation and Interpreting for Criminal Law Proceedings
- ML791B. Translation and Interpreting for Criminal Law Proceedings (Advanced)
- ML792A. Translation and Interpreting for Civil Matters
- ML792B. Translation and Interpreting for Civil Matters (Advanced)
- ML793. Lab Practicum for Exams in Legal Interpreting

Course Descriptions

ML 790A. Contrastive Grammatical Analysis of English and Spanish
Prerequisite: A pass in the Screening Test. Practical overview of key grammatical patterns as they contrast between English and Spanish.

ML 790B. Translation and Interpreting: Elements and Methods
Prerequisite: ML 790A. Exploration of the processes and problems of translation and interpretation; overview of the translation and interpreting industries.

ML 791A. Translation and Interpretation For Criminal Proceedings
Prerequisite: ML 790B. Acquisition of the legal vocabulary and terminology related to criminal proceedings, with training in consecutive, simultaneous and sight interpreting.

ML 791B. Translation and Interpreting for Criminal Proceedings (Advanced)
Prerequisite: ML 791A. Further acquisition of legal terminology for criminal proceedings, with continuing training in consecutive, simultaneous and sight interpreting.

ML 792A. Translation and Interpreting for Civil Matters
Prerequisite: ML 792A. Expansion and development of legal vocabulary and terminology as used in civil proceedings and other civil matters including the translation of contracts; continued performative practice with key interpreting techniques.

ML 792B. Translation and Interpreting for Civil Matters (Advanced)
Prerequisite: ML 792A. Continued development of legal vocabulary and terminology for civil proceedings; including interpreting for Administrative Hearings; interpreting performance practice with memory enhancement and concentration techniques.

ML 793. Lab Practicum for Legal Interpreting Exams
Prerequisite: ML 792B or instructor permission. Preparation for the oral court interpreter exam through performance-measured intensive practice in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting; review of previously taught material in criminal law proceedings.

CIMCE credit

Judicial Council of California CIMCE credit (Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education) - CIMCE numbers for each class
ML790A, CIMCE #1452; ML790B, CIMCE #1453; ML791A, CIMCE #1454; ML791B, CIMCE #1455; ML792A, CIMCE #1456; ML792B, CIMCE #1457; ML793 CIMCE #1458.

Screening Test of Bilingual Skills

This multiple-choice test analyzes your strengths and weaknesses in Spanish and English. The test measures bilingual skills in translation, grammar, and reading comprehension. Your result will be available a few days after the test date. Once you pass this test you can enroll in the first class of the program.

To check the next testing date, call (323)343-4922 or email LIT_Info@calstatela.edu.

Note: A test registration fee of $20 must be paid before for the test day.

Employment Opportunities

Government-based employment paths include work at federal, state, superior and municipal courts, law enforcement agencies, and in administrative, labor and immigration hearings and proceedings. Non-government employment paths include medical centers, insurance companies, financial institutions, international corporations, consulting firms and other private businesses; you may also work right out of home with phone interpreting agencies.

Admission Requirements

- Before the first class, students must pass a bilingual screening test.
- During the first quarter, students complete formal admission. Qualification requirements may be met either by an academic transcript with 54 quarter units (or 36 semester units) of post-secondary education OR by two letters of reference indicating language-skills knowledge and experience suitable for the course work in the program.

Structure

Students can begin in Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer. One section of each course is normally offered each quarter. The required courses are taken in ascending order, beginning with ML 790A, followed by ML 790B, ML 791A, ML 791B, ML 792A, ML 792B, and ML 793. The standard load is one class per quarter for a total of seven quarters. Students can take ML 792B and ML 793 simultaneously to finish faster. Students can take a break after the first quarter and then resume, but after two consecutive quarters out of the program students must be formally re-admitted, and must re-take the screening test or repeat their most recent course.

Prerequisite: ML 790A.

Further acquisition of legal terminology for criminal proceedings, with continuing training in consecutive, simultaneous and sight interpreting.

Prerequisite: ML 790B.

Expanded development of legal vocabulary and terminology as used in civil proceedings and other civil matters including the translation of contracts; continued performative practice with key interpreting techniques.

Prerequisite: ML 792A.

Continued development of legal vocabulary and terminology for civil proceedings; including interpreting for Administrative Hearings; interpreting performance practice with memory enhancement and concentration techniques.

Prerequisite: ML 792B or instructor permission. Preparation for the oral court interpreter exam through performance-measured intensive practice in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting; review of previously taught material in criminal law proceedings.

Trustworthiness, accountability and willingness to be prepared.

What our graduates say about our program:

"The instructors are very knowledgeable and are very supportive and motivating. They care about the students' progress and the success of the program."

"The instructors are good because they are working professionals in the field."

"I believe the program's strength is the emphasis the teachers place on helping the students pass the state exam."

"The program helps build adaptation through our interaction with different teachers in every class."

"I liked the overall one-on-one that the students have with the instructors and extended program staff."

Web: http://www.calstatela.edu/exed/sub/professional/legalinterpre.htm