Course Details

The Professional Interpreter in Special Education Certificate Program will provide a comprehensive overview of the specific skills required to interpret accurately and efficiently in meetings involving special education students and their families. This course takes students beyond the basics of interpretation, to learn about the special education eligibility process, identification, and support for students with disabilities. During the course, students will learn their role as interpreters in the special education process, the standards of practice as they relate to special education interpretation, and the native and target language terminology required to interpret and support special education students and school personnel. All lessons and discussions are in English and students are expected to be fully bilingual in the native and target languages.

This synchronous online course, through its learning content, which includes videos and lesson presentations, discussions, written assignments, and weekly online live meetings with the instructor, will provide you with the principles required to serve as a knowledgeable, accurate, and effective interpreter in the special education field.

Learning Objectives

Module 1: Introduction to Special Education Interpretation

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

• Understand the special skills needed to effectively and accurately interpret for special education meetings.
• Describe legislation pertaining to special education.
• Recognize the roles of special education professionals and support personnel, including interpreters.

Module 2: Standards of Practice in Special Education Interpretation

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

• Demonstrate knowledge of the interpreter's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics as they apply to special education interpretation.
• Discuss and define the appropriate application of the Standards of Practice to case scenarios.
Module 3: Overview of the Special Education Process
Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:
• Define the identification, referral and eligibility processes involved in special education.
• Describe procedural safeguards offered through the special education parental rights.
• Enhance knowledge of special education terminology in the areas of special education identification, referral and eligibility.

Module 4: The Individualized Education Plan
Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:
• To identify the main sections of an Individualized Education Plan and the role of the interpreter in the process.
• To describe different types of IEPs and possible support services that a student can receive.
• To enhance knowledge of special education terminology in the area of Individualized Education Plans.

Module 5: Reevaluations and Life after High School
Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:
• Describe the three-year reevaluation process and the role of the interpreter.
• Examine the content and purpose of transition plans.
• Identify post-secondary options available for high school students with disabilities.
• Enhance knowledge of special education terminology in relation to reevaluations, or support for students with disabilities after high school.

Module 6: Discipline and the Special Education Student
Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:
• Identify behavior intervention plan components and the role of the interpreter in behavior intervention meetings.
• Examine disciplinary consequences and accommodations provided to special education students involved in disciplinary incidents.
• Describe Manifestation Determination meetings and possible outcomes.
• Enhance knowledge of special education terminology in relation to disciplinary and behavior interventions.
Module 7: Common Disabilities and Chronic Conditions

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

• Identify common disabilities and chronic conditions that the interpreter may encounter in the school system.
• Describe assistive technology and supportive services available to help students with disabilities and chronic conditions.
• Evaluate appropriate ways to handle interpreter stress and emotions when dealing with families and students with disabilities and chronic conditions.
• Enhance knowledge of special education terminology in relation to common disabilities and chronic conditions.

Module 8: Course Wrap-Up, Post-Test and Final Exam

Upon completion of this module, you should be able to:

• Expand and review resources in the area of special education terminology.
• Compare and contrast knowledge of special education processes and terminology, from the start of the course to its conclusion.