

SPAN 180: Medical Translation & Interpretation

All students must be fluent in Spanish and English and have written skills at high school level or above.

Prerequisites for this course: SPAN 103 Minimum Grade: C-

1. Chapter Basic of Translation and Interpretation:

The first part of this course will provide the foundational knowledge and linguistic tools necessary to perform the role of a professional medical translator and interpreter. In this course students will have several opportunities to learn and review essential grammar, techniques, jargon, idiom expressions, colloquialisms, and skills that are the cornerstone of every adept interpreter working in the medical field. In addition, in the class it will be clear the difference between a medical Interpreter and a medical translator. Medical interpreting and translating are two different jobs that both carry a great deal of responsibility.

2. Chapter Ethics and Standards:

The second part of this course will introduce students to the paramount guidelines of professionalism and ethical conduct for healthcare interpreters issued by the most prominent organizations in the field. Students will be able to have a better understanding of the core ethical principles and the standards of practice professional translators and interpreters should adhere to while performing their duties.

Students will also have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills by analyzing potential cultural misunderstandings and ethical dilemmas that may encounter in many different healthcare.

3. Chapter Medical Terminology:

Understanding medical terminology is important for the medical translator and interpreter, but speaking the medical language used in the day-to-day healthcare environment is paramount in ensuring effective communication in a medical encounter. Interpreter correct pronunciation and proficiency in the language of medicine will allow healthcare providers and consumers to understand each other clearly. Medical translators often need to deal with paperwork and with the more formal side of the medical world. They are required to know precise technical terms in each language to make sure all the information in paperwork is correct. It is important for medical translators to have a strong command of both languages, because mistakes could even have legal repercussions.

The third part of this course will be interactive, and students will be exposed to a combination of videos and audio exercises. They will learn and get made familiar with hundreds of core medical words organized by body systems. These engaging visuals and auditory elements will enhance students learning and retention of the medical terms presented in this part of this course. The course will cover vocabulary of the human anatomy, body systems, diseases, treatments, and diagnostic studies. Students will be able to listen and practice the correct pronunciation of these words and other additional medical terms in English and Spanish.

After the third part of this course, students will deep be knowing of medical terminology, and will gain confidence in the medical language. Their learning process will be aided by pronunciation and memorization exercises, visual elements, glossaries, definitions, self-evaluations, and quizzes.

4. Chapter Writing and Oral Exam for California Interpreter Certification.

In California, certification is required to work as an interpreter for 15 languages, including Spanish, which is the most common language in California. Passing both a bilingual interpreting oral exam and a written exam is required to earn certification. Passing the certification exams are no easy task. The state of California offers undergraduate certificate and degree programs that can prepare graduates for various certifications and careers in interpreting.

In this chapter, the students will be familiar with the two national certification exams offered through the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters and the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters.