

Health Care Interpreter

■ Job Description

Health care interpreters facilitate communication between the hearing impaired patient and the health care practitioner.

■ Job Settings

Hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and rehabilitation centers, mental health care settings, residential treatment centers, and a variety of free-lance settings

■ Projected Need

The demand for sign language interpreters is expected to increase. As the population continues to grow and age, so will the need for interpreters with specialized training in the health care field.

In Illinois, there were about 1,090 people employed in this very small occupation in 2000.

■ Salaries

Salaries vary depending on geographical area, education, experience and credentials. According to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), salaries range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year for interpreters employed with an agency, government organization, or school system. Some interpreters work freelance and earn anywhere from \$12.00 to \$40.00 per hour.

■ Differences in Training

Community college programs in interpreter training are available at Waubensee Community College, Harper College, Black Hawk College, Illinois Central College, John A. Logan College and Southwestern Illinois College for either a certificate or an associate's degree. In addition to training in language and interpreting skills, the program includes training related to health care settings, ethics and decision making in health care settings, and interpersonal skills. Skills are learned through lecture, laboratory, and clinical experience.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this

occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[American Sign Language](#)

■ Credentials

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) provides testing for national certification.

■ Resources

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
333 Commerce Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.838.0030
E-mail: views@rid.org
<http://www.rid.org>
Select "Becoming an Interpreter" from the right menu column.

A \$500 scholarship is awarded to student members who are enrolled in an interpreter/translator training or interpreter preparation program. Scholarships are also available to members for certification test costs.

National Association of the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4500
Phone: 301.587.1788
E-mail: NADinfo@nad.org
<http://www.nad.org>
Select "Info Center" then "How do I Become a Sign Language Interpreter?" on the right side bar.