JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE®

****

Spanish-English
Health Care Interpreting Program

****

Updated 5/24

Information for Prospective Students

Fall 2025

Contact Christina Wolff at cdecasqu@jccc.edu for testing information.

Testing takes place on campus and/or on Zoom.

Introduction

Thanks for your interest in the Health Care Interpreting certificate program at JCCC. We hope that the following information will help answer your questions about becoming a health care interpreter and provide the information you need about our certificate program.

Health Care Interpreting (HCI) is designed to give bilingual (English and Spanish) students the awareness, knowledge and skills necessary to serve as entry-level interpreters and translators in health care settings, including hospitals, clinics, medical offices and similar environments. Program completers should be eligible for employment as salaried or on-call staff interpreters, or as self-employed freelance interpreters. Employment opportunities may also be available with professional interpreting and translating service companies. Although the emphasis of the program is medical interpreting, the skills gained could be applied to other interpreting and translating settings in the community, such as conference and business interpreting and translation of written documents.

The Need for Trained Interpreters

There is a serious need in Johnson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area for a Spanish-English medical interpreting training program. The Kansas City region experienced phenomenal growth in Spanish-speaking residents in the 1990s and the trend is expected to accelerate over the next 20 years. According recent figures, at least 120,000 people of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity currently reside in the metropolitan area, approximately 40,000 of them in Johnson County and Wyandotte County. These figures are expected to continue to increase, with Johnson County leading the area in the rate of growth of Spanish-speaking residents. Many of these residents do not speak English fluently, especially the 2,000 or more new immigrants who arrive in the metropolitan area each year. As a result, an unprecedented need exists for professionally trained Spanish-English interpreters, far outstripping the supply. The employment outlook for interpreters is strong, especially for part-time and on-call positions. (http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/20/2036000.html).

Description of the Program

The Health Care Interpreting program is a 20-credit-hour vocational program leading to a certificate of completion. It is designed to be completed in three semesters, although there is enough flexibility in the curriculum to extend the time period for several additional semesters, if the student prefers a slower pace. The program is organized in a progression of courses leading the student from general concepts to increasingly complex skills and knowledge, culminating in a comprehensive skills exam and a professional practicum. It includes five courses developed specifically for the program plus two courses offered through other departments. **The latter two courses, HC 130 Medical Terminology for Health Care Professions and HC 101 Introduction to Health Care Delivery, do not have prerequisites and could be taken at any time prior to completion of the program**. However, HC 130 must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140.

Please note that you must be <u>admitted</u> into the HCI program. Completion of HC 130 and HC 101 does not guarantee admission into the program.

The HCI program has its own unique course prefix (HCI) and curriculum. HCI students should enroll only in 5 courses with the HCI prefix, plus HC 130 and HC 101.

The HCI curriculum is based on national standards and the recommendations of local experts in the field. Through academic course work, practical skills training and field work in a community medical setting, students will learn:

- Professional roles and responsibilities of medical interpreters
- Common medical conditions, treatments, protocols and procedures
- Medical terminology in both English and Spanish
- The importance of providers' and clients' cultural beliefs and values
- Intercultural communication, cross-cultural mediation and conflict resolution
- A code of ethics and professional standards of practice for interpreters
- Application of interpreting and translating skills in English and Spanish
- Legal aspects of interpreting and potential legal liabilities of interpreters

Requirements for Admission

Students must meet all admissions requirements established by Johnson County Community College. Prospective students should visit the Admissions page at jccc.edu for more information and an application. You may call the Admissions Office at 913-469-3803 if you have any questions.

In addition to being accepted by the college, students wishing to enroll in the HCI program must demonstrate native or near-native fluency in both English and Spanish before enrolling in any of the program's courses.

Students must demonstrate their academic good standing by providing an unofficial copy of their transcript. Students on academic probation or students who have holds on their accounts will not be considered as candidates for the HCI program.

The supervisor of the Health Care Interpreting Program will evaluate candidates using the tests defined below. Candidates must demonstrate that they are able to use both English and Spanish with equal fluency.

Assessment Interview: Documentation of Fluency

Students must first speak to the HCI supervisor in order to set up testing.

Fluency can be difficult to assess. Candidates will have three skills tested: reading, writing and speaking. The English and Spanish reading and writing tests take place in JCCC's Testing Center. This is scheduled by the HCI supervisor. These skills will be evaluated during interviews with the program facilitator and HCI instructors. Testing of all three skills is required prior to enrollment in courses. The top 10-12 students with the best combined reading, writing and speaking test scores will be admitted into the program, and will be allowed to enroll in program courses. Those students will begin the HCI program in the fall.

The oral proficiency exam will be conducted by the HCI supervisor at no cost to the student. An ACTFL OPIc exam will be given at cost to the student (approximately $73). Please visit www.actfl.org for details about ACTFL testing.

A 3-step testing process will measure English and Spanish skills by appointment in the LRC.

Step 1 – Contact Christina Wolff at cdecasqu@jccc.edu.

> **No testing during finals week.**

ONLINE: Visit the Assessment Test Study Guides page at jccc.edu

ENGLISH TESTING

- Minimum qualifying ACCUPLACER test scores, qualifying ACT scores or successful completion of Composition I with a C grade or better.
- Short Essay – minimum score of 80%. Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in English. A scoring grid created by the HCI supervisor will be used.

SPANISH TESTING

- Spanish Placement – Preferred: Advanced score on the Avant placement exam
- Short Essay – minimum score of 80%. Students will demonstrate their ability to communicate in Spanish. A scoring grid created by the HCI supervisor will be used.

For more information visit https://avantassessment.com/place

The short essay exam was created by the HCI supervisor.

STEP 2 – An oral proficiency interview by appointment with the HCI supervisor.

Candidates will meet with the HCI supervisor for an oral proficiency interview if their reading and writing tests meet the minimum requirements as explained above.

Students will be ranked after completing Step 2 of the testing process. The top 10-12 students will be advised to take the ACTFL OPIc exam (estimated cost - $73). Once the OPIc has been scheduled with the supervisor, it must be completed within 10 days or you will be required to pay the $73 fee again.

NOTE: Candidates will be required to test in their non-dominant language. Candidates will either take the ACTFL OPIc in English or Spanish.

STEP 3 – Students who receive an Advanced Mid, or higher ranking from ACTFL and meet the requirements as outlined in steps 1 and 2 will be admitted into the program. Students who do not receive an Advanced Mid or better on the ACTFL OPIc, but who have met the requirements as outlined in steps 1 and 2 may be considered for the program.

- A second oral proficiency interview with the HCI instructor(s) will decide whether or not to admit the student into the program. If the HCI instructor recommends that a student enroll in FL 288 as a condition for the program or Composition I, the student will need to enroll in one or both of these courses. If the HCI instructor recommends waiting to begin the program and completing these courses first, the student will not be admitted into the program.

- Students who do not receive the minimum ACCUPLACER scores may be considered as candidates if they take English or English as a Second Language classes the first semester along with the HCI courses. Those who receive a letter of recommendation from an English or an EAP professor at JCCC may also be considered for the HCI program.

CURRICULUM

Seven required courses in the certificate program include:

HCI 110   Introduction to Interpreting (3 credits)

Introduction to Interpreting is the most basic course. It provides students with practical and theoretical knowledge about the field of interpreting as a profession and the qualities demanded of professional interpreters. Content includes:
1. Roles and responsibilities of interpreters
2. Ethical issues confronting interpreters and adherence to a code of ethics
3. Business and professional standards of practice
4. Cultural competence and appreciation of cultural diversity
5. Linguistics

HCI 120   Interpreting Skills I (3 credits)

Interpreting Skills I introduces students to the practice of interpreting and develops their sight translation and consecutive interpreting abilities. Topics include:
1. Sight translation skills
2. Listening and memory
3. Consecutive interpretive skills
4. Communication strategies for improved interpreting success
5. Organization and intervention techniques

HCI 130   Interpreting Skills II (3 credits)

Interpreting Skills II builds increasingly complex interpreting skills and introduces students to concepts of written translation. Students will practice all of their interpreting skills in class, develop a personal philosophy of interpreting, and demonstrate their mastery of interpreting through a comprehensive skills exam. Topics include:
1. Prerequisite skills needed for simultaneous interpreting
2. Simultaneous interpreting
3. Fundamentals of written translation
4. Comprehensive skills exam
5. Developing a personal philosophy of interpreting

HCI 140   Spanish Medical Interpreting (3 credits)*

Spanish Medical Interpreting focuses specifically on Spanish-English interpreting in a medical environment to prepare students for work in that highly specialized and demanding field and to make them ready for the interpreter practicum course that follows. Course content includes:
1. Roles and responsibilities of health care interpreters
2. Cultural competence in health care situations
3. Spanish medical terminology
4. Mental health interpreting
5. Practice interpreting in mock medical situations

*HC 130 must be taken prior to or along with HCI 140.

HCI 180   Medical Interpreting Practicum (2 credits)

The Medical Interpreting Practicum course serves as the culmination of the program. It gives students an opportunity to interpret in genuine medical settings under the supervision of practicing professional interpreters and to discuss their experiences with other students, faculty and their practicum supervisors. The course emphasizes:
1. Demonstration of mastery of medical interpreting skills
2. Knowledge and understanding of the interpreter's working environment
3. Continued development of a personal philosophy of interpreting

In addition, the following two HC courses, currently offered through other departments, **are required**:

HC 130   Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions (3 credits)*

This course will introduce the student to a systematic method for learning, understanding and applying medical terminology. The course will provide an overview regarding the development of medical terms, and outline medical terminology pertaining to each of the body systems, selected illnesses, diagnostic procedures and pharmacology. This course is designed for the student who is interested in any facet of the healthcare industry, and is a required course for several certificate programs. Some portions of this course will require computer utilization and independent online work.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Define the three basic word parts in building medical terms
2. Spell and pronounce medical terms accurately and correctly
3. Identify the prefix and root in any medical term
4. Decipher and utilize approved medical abbreviations
5. Define medical terms associated with the anatomy and physiology of body systems, diagnostic studies, illnesses, pharmacology and healthcare professions
6. Outline basic roles of healthcare professionals
7. Utilize reference sources to research medical terminology
8. Demonstrate skills in utilizing the computer

*This may be taken prior to other classes, but must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140.

HC 101 Introduction to Health Care Delivery (3 credits)

Introduction to Health Care Delivery acquaints students with the American health care delivery system, prepares students to become members of the health care delivery team, and provides needed information about the medical workplace. Content includes:
1. Components of the health care delivery system, including organization, economics, consumers and health care providers
2. Personal and professional safety and workplace skills
3. Communication and team strategies when working with patients, families and other health care professionals
4. Legal and ethical issues and the ability to apply critical thinking skills to analyze them
5. A career education plan and career profile

Course Sequence

See the examples below for what a typical three-semester sequence **might** look like:

Fall		*HCI 110 and 120 are only offered in the fall.*	**Fall**		
HCI 110	Introduction to Interpreting		HCI 110	Introduction to Interpreting	
HCI 120	Interpreting Skills I		HCI 120	Interpreting Skills I	
HC 101	Introduction to Health Care Delivery OR HC 130	*HCI 130 and 140 are only offered in the spring.*	**Spring**		
			HCI 130	Interpreting Skills II	
Spring			HCI 140	Spanish Medical Interpreting	
HCI 130	Interpreting Skills II		HC 130	Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions AND Shadowing	
HCI 140	Spanish Medical Interpreting	*HC 130 is a prerequisite for HCI 180. HCI 130 MUST be taken BEFORE HCI 180.*			
HC 130	Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions AND Shadowing OR HC 101		**Fall**		
			*HCI 180	Medical Interpreting Practicum	
Summer/Fall			HC 101	Introduction to Health Care Delivery	
*HCI 180	Medical Interpreting Practicum				

Note: **HC 130 Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions and HC 101 Introduction to Health Care Delivery have no prerequisites and could be taken prior to other courses in the program**, thus reducing the student's course load during the program. However, HC 130 must be completed prior to or along with HCI 140. HC 101 is only offered in the spring and fall.

Grades

Students must earn a grade of C or higher in each of the program's courses to continue in the program. Students must demonstrate the ability to interpret and translate with at least 80% accuracy and successfully complete a required practicum class in order to earn the certificate of completion.

Certificate

Please note that this rigorous program requires that students dedicate time studying, attending class, learning new vocabulary daily and participating in class. Students who do not meet the criteria as outlined above will not be permitted to begin the practicum. Students must receive a recommendation from the HCI instructor(s) before enrolling in HCI 180.

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites

Courses will be taken in the order of their course numbers, with the following pre- and corequisites:

Course	Prerequisites	Corequisites	Pre- or Corequisites
HCI 110	Supervisor Approval	None	
HCI 120			HCI 110
HCI 130	HCI 110, HCI 120		
HCI 140			HCI 130, HC 130
HCI 180	HCI 130, HCI 140		HC 101
HC 130	None	HCI 140	
HC 101	None	None	

All students who do their shadowing and practicum assignments at assigned hospitals must complete specific requirements from a check-off list by the due date of December 1 before going to the hospitals.

Although not required, the supervisor strongly recommends that students take ENGL 121 Composition I and/or RDG 127 College Reading Skills. The supervisor may also suggest that students enroll in a Spanish course for heritage speakers, FL 288, Spanish for Heritage and Advanced Speakers of Spanish. See descriptions on next page.

<u>FL 288 Spanish for Heritage and Advanced Speakers of Spanish</u>:

This course is specifically offered to students who learned to speak Spanish at home, but who have had little or no formal Spanish grammar training. Students will develop their reading, speaking, listening and writing skills. Students will learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. The course would also be offered to students who have learned Spanish as a second language and read, speak, listen and write at an advanced level.

<u>English 121 Composition I</u>:

Composition I focuses on writing nonfiction prose suitable in its expression and content to both its occasion and its audience. Students will have an opportunity to improve in all phases of the writing process: discovering ideas, gathering information, planning and organizing, drafting, revising and editing. Each text written in the course should clearly communicate a central idea or thesis, contain sufficient detail to be lively and convincing, reflect the voice of the writer and use carefully edited standard written English. Some sections of this course are tailored to meet the needs of specific student populations, such as veterans or Honors students, or students in specific programs, such as Hospitality or Technology. By the end of the semester, students should have completed at least 20 pages (approximately 5,000 words) of revised and edited prose. Students must take the JCCC writing assessment test or submit an ACT score of 19 or higher before enrolling. For more information, see a JCCC counselor.

Deadlines for students admitted into the Fall 2025 program:

1st DEADLINE

- Meet with the HCI supervisor to discuss required vaccinations for this program for students admitted into the program. Once a student has met with the supervisor, a waiver for the HCI courses will be placed.

2nd DEADLINE – December 1

- The Validity Screening background check must come back with no negative findings.
- This year's flu shot.
- TB symptom review sheets for CMH and TMC if required.
- If you did not use bloodwork for your TB test, your second TB test needs to be completed and read by December 1.
- Required immunizations (MMR, Varicella Tdap, Hep B and COVID-19 vaccine).

A. **Students must complete an online training module for CMH and TMC on their due dates.**

B. **Students who do submit their paperwork by January 1 understand that their grade in their HCI course may be lowered as outlined in the course syllabus.**

C. **All students will submit documents to the HCI for both TMC and CMH no later than January 1. The supervisor will FIRST approve documents by December 1.**

D. **Students are required to submit documents to TMC and CMH using the online portals after they have been first reviewed by the HCI supervisor.**

Due to the rapidly changing clinical requirements in regard to the COVID-19 vaccination, contact the program director for the most current requirements and process. Health restrictions which prohibit student performance during the shadowing and practicum portion of the program may prevent admission to or completion of the program.

More information on the Health Care Interpreting program can be found on the jccc.edu website, by searching for "health care interpreting" in the search box in the upper right-hand corner.

<u>Timeline for Health Care Interpreting Program – Fall 2025 only</u>

Immediately apply for admissions to JCCC and generate a student ID number.

If you have questions or need help enrolling in a class, call Enrollment Assistance at 913-469-3803.

September 3-November 1, 2024
- Advising, step 1 testing.
- Contact Christina Wolff at cdecasqu@jccc.edu.
- Send transcripts to JCCC.

November 4-December 13, 2024
- Step 2 face-to-face interviews, by appointment.

January 6-31, 2025
- Selected candidates will sit for the ACTFL OPIc in their non-dominant language.
- Final candidates selected for the Health Care Interpreting Program.

February 1-May 9, 2025
- Submit documents to the HCI supervisor.
- Additional candidates considered only if there is space available in the program.
- HCI 110 and 120 course waivers issue to those students who submitted their paperwork.

August 2025
- Begin the HCI Program. Enroll in HCI 110 and HCI 120. You should consider enrolling in HC 130 as well.

December 1, 2025
- Check-off lists completed and all paperwork submitted to the HCI supervisor.

Please note: There is no testing during finals week.

Students enrolled in HCI 180 must complete the application for graduation for summer or fall graduation.

AM I READY Check-Off List

❑ Generate a JCCC student ID number

❑ Complete the Personal Admissions Plan orientation

(This is a requirement for first-time students.)

❑ Complete the International and Immigrant Student Services orientation if you are not a U.S. citizen

❑ Visit the Success Center page at jccc.edu

❑ Download the online booklet

❑ Contact Christina Wolff

❑ Meet with an advisor

❑ Talk to Financial Aid

❑ Submit a transcript to JCCC

❑ Enroll in non-interpreting classes that do not have prerequisites (HC 101, HC 130) if advised to do so

❑ Take the placement tests after speaking to the HCI supervisor

❑ Meet with Christina Wolff for a face-to-face interview

❑ Pay for the OPIc and sit for the OPIc if requested to do so

❑ Enroll in the program classes if requested to do so.

❑ Enroll in other courses that are not part of the HCI program such as HC 130, HC 101, ENGL 121, RDG 127

or FL 288, Spanish for Heritage and Advanced Speakers of Spanish if your advisor suggests you do so.

❑ Update immunizations.

❑ Enroll in HCI 110 and HCI 120 if you were issued a waiver.

❑ Submit paperwork (December 1).

❑ Shadow at TMC and CMH (February).

❑ Complete HCI 110, 120, 130, 140; HC 101, 130 with a C or better in <u>all</u> courses. (Note: HC 130 must be

completed before beginning the HCI 180 practicum.)

❑ Enroll in HCI 180 per instructor recommendation.

❑ Fill out an application for graduation once you enroll in HCI 180.

Please direct questions about the program to:
Prof. Christina Wolff
Foreign Language Department – Box 31
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299
913-469-8500, ext. 3513
cdecasqu@jccc.edu

Information about Johnson County Community College and applications for admission are available at:
Johnson County Community College
Admissions Office – Box 41
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299
913-469-3803
Web: www.jccc.edu

See all your options to meet with a JCCC Counselor HERE!

To schedule an appointment:
- Call 913-469-3809, or
- Send an email to advise@jccc.edu or
- Go online:
    - **Virtual Appointments:** https://jccc.libcal.com/appointments/onlinecounselors
    - **Face-to-Face Appointment:** https://jccc.libcal.com/appointments/oncampuscounselors

Some resources for you:
- **Johnson County Mental Health:** 913-268-0156
- **Bert Nash Community Mental Health (Douglas County, KS):** 785-843-9192
- **Suicide Prevention Hotline:**
    - 800-273-8255 (English)
    - 800-628-9454 (Español)
    - 800-799-4889 (deaf and hard of hearing)
    - Online Chat: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/
- **Veterans Suicide Hotline:**
    - 1-800-273-8255 option 1
    - Chat: https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/
- **SafeHome (KS):** 913-262-2868 (Domestic Violence shelter and resources)
- **Rose Brooks Center (Kansas City, MO):** 816-861-6100 (domestic violence shelter and resources)

Hispanic Development Fund (HDF) Family College Prep Bilingual Resources
- HDF College Playbook
- HDF Resource for Undocumented Students
- HDF Financial Aid Presentation
- Resource for Writing a Personal Statement

These are just some of the free and downloadable resources you can find in the 'Resources' section of our website: https://hdfkc.org/resources