

NEW for 2025: 5-Step Qualification Process

Step 1: Complete a Webinar Series

As the first step in the certification process, candidates must register for and complete three webinars that will familiarize them with the Virginia Judicial System. The webinar consists of three one-hour-long sessions, which must be completed before the candidate can move on to step two of the program.

Step 2: Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

Candidate must provide scores for an OPI, testing both speaking and listening skills in English and the non-English language(s).

Step 3: Written Exam

The written test consists of 135 multiple-choice questions that are designed to measure basic, general English language proficiency, and court and ethics knowledge. Candidates must score a minimum of 80% on the written test to be eligible to register for the 2-day interpreter orientation. The test is created by [The National Center for State Courts](#) and administered by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, twice a year, in person at 4 different locations: Chesapeake, Hanover, Warrenton and Blacksburg, VA.

Step 4: 2-day Interpreter Orientation

This orientation will familiarize interpreter candidates with the Virginia Judicial System, courtroom protocol, the role of the interpreter, specific skills needed for the different modes of interpreting, and a thorough review of the code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters. The training also includes an overview of self-study techniques, practice sessions, available resources, and suggestions on how to prepare for the oral certification exam.

The orientation is offered twice a year in two locations: Hanover and Warrenton, VA.

Step 5: Sign the Interpreter's Oath

Candidates who successfully complete all four steps become qualified in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, candidates must review and agree to adhere to the Code of Professional Responsibility for Foreign Language Interpreters Serving Virginia Courts by signing the Interpreter's Oath.

Once the oath is signed, the candidate is considered to be a qualified interpreter in the state of Virginia.

Visit the [Program Information and Registration page](#) to begin the process.