



STEP 2: ORAL PROFICIENCY INTERVIEW (OPI)

To fulfill Step Two, interpreter candidates must provide **official scores** from oral proficiency interviews (OPIs) that assess both **speaking and listening skills** in:

- **English**, and
- **The non-English language(s).**

Only **official scores** will be accepted.

Approved tests and minimum required scores:

- **International English Language Testing (IELTS):** Band 7
- **Versant English Test (VET):** 49
- **TOEFL iBT Listening:** 17
- **TOEFL iBT Speaking:** 20
- **Language Testing International (LTI) – ACTFL Scale:** Superior
- **Alta OPI:** 10
- **ILR:** 3+

If candidates **do not yet have official scores**, they may complete the exam through the **Foreign Language Division** to satisfy this requirement.

Candidates receive **detailed instructions on how to submit their official scores or register to take the OPI** after completing the **Step 1 Viewing Assertion Form**.

** Prerequisite: Completion of step one (webinars).

Candidates are allowed two opportunities to take and pass the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) requirement. If a candidate does not achieve the required passing score, they must wait a minimum of twelve (12) months before attempting the OPI again.

This waiting period is in place to ensure that candidates have sufficient time to strengthen their language skills. Strong proficiency in both English and the non-English language is essential for interpreters working in judicial settings. Court interpreting demands a high level of accuracy, clarity, and command of both languages to ensure all parties fully understand the proceedings and that justice is administered fairly. Interpreters must be able to convey complex legal terminology, express nuances of meaning, and maintain impartiality and professionalism at all times.

Candidates are encouraged to use the twelve-month interval to continue studying, practicing, and immersing themselves in both languages. Doing so will better prepare them for the rigorous demands of court interpreting and enhance their likelihood of achieving a passing score on their next OPI attempt.