Effective communication between health care providers and their patients is key to successfully meeting patients’ needs. Certified Medical Interpreters break down language and cultural barriers to ensure accurate, timely, effective diagnosis and medical treatment. Medical interpreters also play a key role in patient education. They may also be asked to translate written materials including brochures, web content, and care instructions. UNLV offers the only in-person medical interpretation certificate in Southern Nevada that fulfills the requirements to sit for the national certification exams.

**Earning Your Certificate**

UNLV’s Medical Interpretation: Spanish Certificate program prepares bilingual speakers to work as a medical interpreter in a hospital, doctor’s office, social service agency, or as a contractor.

During your training, emphasis is placed on understanding the problems and complexities of interpretation, the roles and responsibilities of a medical interpreter, use of pertinent medical terminology and its context, awareness of the diverse cultural factors and linguistic sensitivity in medical interpreting, and the development of interpretation skills.

**Nevada Employment Outlook:**

Medical interpreters bridge both language and cultural differences between patients, families, and medical professionals. Nevada anticipates a 42 percent increase in interpretation and translation jobs over 10 years. The average base salary for medical interpreters in Las Vegas is $45,987.

www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm
www1.salary.com/NV/Las-Vegas/Medical-Interpreter-salary.html
of Clark County, NV households are linguistically isolated, meaning there is no one in the household over 14 proficient in English. Linguistically isolated households may have difficulty accessing both routine and emergency medical services.

To earn the Medical Interpretation: Spanish Certificate and meet requirements to sit for national exams, candidates must successfully complete four courses.

- Introduction to Medical Interpreting
- Medical Terminology & Specialties I
- Medical Terminology & Specialties II
- Medical Interpreter Skills Development

National Certification Requirements
Both the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters and the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreting require certification applicants to be a minimum of 18 years of age, have a minimum high school diploma or GED, earn a certificate of completion from a medical interpreter training course of at least 40 hours (fulfilled by this program), and be orally proficient in both English and the target language (Spanish).

Once the above requirements are met, candidates first take a written exam and then an oral exam.

Instructors
Alvaro Vergara-Mery, PhD, CMI is a Certified Medical Interpreter and licensed trainer in the Cultural and Linguistic Services Department at University Medical Center (UMC) in Las Vegas. He is in charge of interpreter education and training, language proficiency, cultural competence, translation, and curriculum design. Vergara-Mery is a cultural and language access consultant and has received the California Healthcare Interpreters Association’s 2016 Trainer of the Year Award. He is adjunct faculty at UNLV School of Medicine.

David Loaiza-Funk, MHS, CMI/CHI, CLSSBB is the president and CEO of Diversidad LLC, a company that eliminates language barriers while enhancing inclusion in the community of Southern Nevada. Loaiza-Funk has a master’s degree in healthcare administration as well as dual certification in medical/healthcare interpreting through NBCMI and CCHI and a black belt in Lean Six Sigma for quality improvement. Loaiza-Funk has coached and managed medical interpreters for the last 10 years at different organizations including University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. Loaiza-Funk serves as Director-at-Large for the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition and has received the American College of Healthcare Executives’ Regent at Large Diversity Award in 2017 and the National Association of Latinos Healthcare Executives (NALHE) 2016 caucus leadership award.

Schedule & Free Information Sessions
Course descriptions, language proficiency requirements, schedules, and registration are online at ced.unlv.edu/medical-interpretation.

Attend a free information session to meet the instructors and learn about class format, curriculum, financial assistance, and employment outlook. For upcoming information session dates and times, visit ced.unlv.edu/medical-interpretation.

Contact Us
Reach UNLV Continuing Education at 702-895-3394 or continuing.education@unlv.edu.

Related Courses:
Legal Interpretation: Spanish Certificate
Bilingual individuals can train to become a certified court interpreter, a profession much in demand given the linguistic diversity of the state of Nevada.

Course details, program requirements, and free information session dates at ced.unlv.edu/legal-interpretation.