

To: Madelyn Arballo
From: Tami L. Pearson
Date: August 12, 2016
Subject: Health Care Interpreter

In response to an inquiry from Dr. Scroggins on whether Mt. SAC should consider Health Care Interpreter as a viable program, to date below is what my research has revealed,

History

Mt. SAC previously offered Health Care Interpreting as a noncredit program. It was a 10-month program for students who were proficient both in their native language and English. The ESL department in noncredit oversaw the program which required students to complete 8 courses. The program ended in 2008-09 due to a mandated reduction in instructional programming.

During the time when the program was offered at Mt. SAC, there was no state or federal licensing or standards. However, as of January 1, 2009, regulations under Senate Bill 853 took effect stating, "The Department will accept plan standards for interpreter ethics, conduct, and confidentiality that adopt and apply, in full, the standards promulgated by... CHIA or the National Council on Interpreting in Healthcare." (Title 28, California Code of Regulations, Section 1300.67.04 Language Assistance Programs). All interpreters who provide service to limited-English-speaking enrollees and beneficiaries covered by commercial plans and insurance in California must get trained in interpreting ethics, conduct, and confidentiality.

Labor Market Data

With the assistance of Lori Sanchez, I gathered labor market data for Health Care Interpreting. In both the BLS and EDD sites, this job is categorized as "Interpreting and Translation" (SOC 27-3091; CIP 16.0103; TOP 2140.00), so it is harder to tease out data specific to Health Care Interpreter. The LMI for Interpreting and Translation is as follows:

Occupational Outlook Handbook	2014-24	2014-24
(US Bureau of Labor)	<u># Job Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Nation	17,500	29% increase
California	4,900	37% increase
Average All Occupations – 7% increase		

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EDD	2012-22	2012-22
Los Angeles – Long Beach - Glendale	<u># Job Change</u> 1,190	<u>% Change</u> 33% increase

Occupational Employment Statistics

In reviewing the occupational data, the location quotient provides additional data about job growth projections. The location quotient is used to ascertain if jobs are going to be located in a certain area. The average location quotient is 1. A location quotient higher than 1 indicates the occupation will be more prevalent in a given area.

- Location Quotient (May, 2015) – California is **1.38**
- Location Quotient (May, 2015) – Los Angeles/Long Beach/Glendale is **1.11**

Education Requirement

The typical education level requirement for this occupation is a bachelor's degree. The breakdown per O*Net Online is:

Associate's Degree:	11%
Bachelor's Degree:	52%
Master's Degree:	26%

This means that 52% of those working as interpreters/translators have their Bachelor's degree, 26% have their Masters and 11% have an Associates. The remaining 11% is some other educational attainment level (doctorate to high school diploma.) More research is needed to understand where Health Career Interpreter training may fit at Mt. SAC if at all (that is fee-based, noncredit, or credit), depending on what the job growth and requirements might be.

Other Factors

A very limited number of California community colleges offer a Health Care Interpreter certificate. Moreno Valley College, American River College and City College of San Francisco all offer this certificate but through their fee-based or credit programs.

It appears that those who might enroll in this program are already employed within a healthcare setting, are bilingual, and already do translation within their workplace but now want/need a certificate in order to be compensated for the work. It is unclear how many potential students are not currently part of the healthcare workforce.

Certification

There are two national organizations offering certification for Healthcare Interpreters. However, the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters is also recognized by the State of California's Division of Workers' Compensation as an approved credentialing and certification program. Those who wish to earn this certification must pass a written and oral exam. The prerequisites to take the written and oral examinations are as follows:

- 18 years or older
- High School diploma or equivalency

- Medical interpreting education program (minimum of 40 hours)
- Oral Proficiency in English
- Oral Proficiency in target language

Next Steps – Recommendation

Based on my initial findings, I believe further research and analysis of labor market demand and levels of required education is needed. I have begun contacting our partner health care organizations to determine the need for health care interpreters and their process for getting staff certified. On September 16, I will be attending the SGVEP Health Careers sector meeting where I can also follow up with employers regarding health care interpreting.

