

PASSING RATES FOR NC COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION ORAL EXAMINATION

The State of North Carolina is a member of the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts and administers the written and oral examinations developed by the Consortium. A passing rate in North Carolina is achieved with a score of 70% or more on each of the three test sections. For more information regarding North Carolina's court interpreter certification program, please refer to the Overview of the Oral Performance Examination for Prospective Court Interpreters on our web site under the link for interpreters.

YEAR	TOTAL # OF CANDIDATES (Spanish)	# WHO PASSED ALL THREE SECTIONS	PASSING RATE (%)	EXTRA SKILLS TRAINING
2000	43	13	30%	Provided at grant expense and required for all candidates.
2001	38	8	21%	
2002	28	1	4%	None provided
2003	24	9	38%	Provided at candidates' expense. 12 candidates attended.
2004	19	3	16%	Provided at candidates' expense. 6 candidates attended.
2005	15	4	26%	Provided at candidates' expense. 8 candidates attended.
2006	15	8	53%	Provided at candidates' expense and required for all examinees.
2007	26	6	23%	Provided at candidates' expense and required for examinees taking the examination for the first time OR for those examinees that previously tested, but passed only one out of three test sections.
2008	30	7	23%	
2009	29	15	51%	
2010	13	1	8%	
2011	29	2	7%	
Spring 2012	14	2	14%	

Although these rates may seem low, please consider the following:

The test is difficult. It is designed to identify those persons with the minimum skills necessary to interpret in a legal setting, which may be the most challenging context within which to provide interpreting services. Being bilingual has nothing to do with the ability to interpret, especially when it comes to the legal setting. The overall passage rate for the states that have administered the Consortium's Spanish interpreter examination since 1995 is 26%.