

Oral Proficiency Requirements:

1. If you have a high school diploma or college degree from the USA, you have already met your oral English requirement because that means that you can speak/read/write English at a high school or college level.
2. If you have a high school diploma or college degree from a Spanish-speaking country or another foreign country, you have already met the oral Spanish/foreign language requirement. In that case, you do NOT have to take the OPI in Spanish/ other foreign language.
3. **If you went to college in the USA and have a major in Spanish, you still have to take the OPI in Spanish.** Majoring in Spanish does NOT guarantee that your oral proficiency level will be at the Advanced-Mid (minimum requirement).
The OPI will determine your oral proficiency level to be able to interpret in medical settings.
4. **If you are a native Spanish-speaker, who has a high school diploma or college degree from the US but NOT from a Spanish-speaking country, you still will have to take the OPI in Spanish.** Speaking Spanish at home does not guarantee that your oral proficiency level in Spanish is at the Advanced-Mid. You will show your proficiency level by taking the OPI in Spanish.
5. If you are an American (from the USA) who grew up and went to high school/college in Honduras, for example, and have proof of it, you do not have to take the OPI in Spanish. You have met your Spanish requirement.
6. If you are an American (from the USA) who has held a professional job for 5 years or more in a Spanish-speaking country, then you do not have to take the OPI in Spanish but you need to show a letter from your employer stating that you worked professionally in that country and that your level in Spanish (for example) is at a professional level.
7. If you are from Argentina (for example) and has held a professional job in the USA for 5 or more years, then, you do not have to take the OPI in English, but you will have to show proof from your employer that you have worked professionally and that your level of English is at a professional level.
8. If you are a Spanish-speaking person who has taken the TOEFL in English in the past 6 years and scored at the level accepted in his course, then, you do not have to take the OPI in English. To find out the accepted TOEFL level, please go to the Policy Handbook that appears on our Web page.

Please check prerequisites at the Web site provided below to see which English exams and General Admission Requirements are accepted/required by our accredited program.

All the prerequisites appear on the Web page where the interpreter course is announced:

<http://www.memphis.edu/sph/programs/interpreter.php>

The examples provided above are based on questions asked by former students registering for Level I. I have chosen Spanish as a foreign language because it is the most used language in the classroom after English, but the examples are applicable to any other foreign language.

Thank you very much for your interest in becoming a professional medical/healthcare interpreter.

Best regards,

Espi Ralston
