

Mississippi State Department of Health

Office of Health Disparity Elimination Division of Linguistic and Cultural Services

Bridging the Gap: 40 Hour Medical Interpreter Training Program

Bridging the Gap is the leading medical interpreter program in the U.S today. This course prepares bilingual individuals to work as medical interpreters in health care settings.

UPCOMING TRAININGS 2016

PROGRAM

The program includes:

- **Basic Interpreting Skills:** Interpreter roles, ethical issues, managing the flow of an interpreting session.
- **Information on Health Care:** An introduction to health care system, basic anatomy, medical terminology.
- **The Role of Culture in Medical Interpreting:** Self-awareness, basic characteristics of specific cultures and culture brokering.
- **Communication Skills:** Listening skills, communication styles, advocacy.
- **Professional Development:** Professional conduct, resources for professional growth.
- **Course Activities include:** Role plays, practicing interpreting skills in small group settings, hands-on interactive activities.

The Course and the Final Exam are administered in English.

REGISTRATION

- Applicants must submit a completed application at least three weeks prior to the start of the course.
- Registration is limited to 20 participants. All applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Applicants must demonstrate a high level of language proficiency in both English and one non-English language.
- Language assessment will be required depending on case by case basis by at least three weeks prior to the start of the BTG course.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, and the minimum education requirement is high school diploma or equivalent.
- Attendance of all 40 hours is required to successfully complete the training program.

TRAINING FEES

- Training fee: \$400
- The training fee includes: Forty hours of training; BTG Textbook; BTG Bilingual Medical Glossary; Training supplies

.....
BTG Certificate of completion serves as one of the prerequisites to register for the National Medical Interpreter Certification Exams.

Members of the American Translators Association (ATA) will receive 10 continuing education credits (CE) for attending Bridging the Gap training.

JACKSON

Date:

January 20th - 22nd
AND January 27th - 29th

Place:

Library Commission
3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
(Small Meeting Room)

Time:

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

TUPELO

Date:

February 24th - 26th
AND March 2nd - 4th

Place:

Itawamba Community
College
Belden Center
3200 Adams Farm Rd.
Belden, MS 38826
Room 400

Time:

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

GULFPORT

Date: June 15th - 17th

AND June 22nd - 24th

Place:

Mercy Housing & Human
Development (MHHD)
1135 Ford Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

Time:

8:30am to 4:30pm

For more information:

Dora Moreno
dora.moreno@msdh.ms.gov
P.O Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215
Tel 601.206.1540
Fax 601.957.6781

Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Health Disparity Elimination

Bridging the Gap: 40 Hour Medical Interpreter Training Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the OHDE offering the Bridging the Gap medical training course?

The OHDE Division of Linguistic and Cultural Services was created to improve provider-patient communication by decreasing language barriers and increasing cultural awareness. Our division strives to advance health equity for Mississippi's increasingly diverse population by providing and developing resources related to culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services.

What is Bridging the Gap?

Bridging the Gap (BTG) is the oldest spoken-language interpreters training program in the country and has been in the U.S. and around the world for over 20 years to provide a foundation for medical interpreting. You can find out more information at www.xculture.org

Do I have to attend all 40 hours?

Yes. Under the license agreement with BTG, in order to receive a certificate of completion you must attend all 40 hours and receive a final score of at least 70% on the final exam.

What happens if I don't pass the test?

Participants who do not receive a passing score will have the opportunity to take a makeup exam covering material for the entire course.

If I take Bridging the Gap, will I be certified?

No. You can refer to yourself as a qualified medical interpreter once you pass BTG, but you will not be considered nationally certified.

How do I become a certified medical interpreter?

There are two national organizations offering certification for medical interpreters. For more information please refer to: <http://www.healthcareinterpretercertification.org/> OR <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/> - Note that BTG or an equivalent program is required to take the certification exam.

What about American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters?

Sign Language interpreters have different protocols, and therefore, different certifications. The RID and the NAD are working together to offer certification examinations for ASL interpreters.

Please see <http://www.rid.org/> and <http://www.nad.org/> for more information.

I do not have experience in the medical field. Is the training appropriate for me?

Yes! The participants in the BTG come from a variety of backgrounds from novice to professional interpreters. The class is taught in a way that incorporates and includes different skills levels.