

Deaf Interpreter Self-Assessment

Where you are with your skills, training, and experiences

This self-assessment walks you through skill/knowledge areas that professional interpreters and Deaf interpreters have identified as crucial for success as a Deaf interpreter. Assessing your training profile, your abilities and knowledge through this self-assessment can help you gain self-awareness of where you are with your skills, training and experiences.

INSTRUCTIONS: This self-assessment has 9 portions that will help you evaluate your skills/knowledge and identify gaps in your Deaf interpreter preparation as well as your potential to obtain professional certification or licensure.

Answer each question and check off the boxes where applicable.

Under each section is an explanation of how the analysis guides you in determining your level of skill and knowledge. Make a note of the gaps in your training and abilities; from that list, you can determine your goals and priorities and create a professional development plan. If you'd like to discuss your results with someone in Deaf Interpreter Academy and get career support, email us at DIAcademy@sorenson.com.

1. Certification/Licensure Considerations:

- Highest level of education? *Note: Check out the education requirements for the state/national interpreter certification that you need to obtain to work professionally as an interpreter.*
- Have you done any formal interpreter training in an academic setting? *Note: Some interpreter licensures call for specific years of formal interpreter training or degrees.*
 - If yes, where did you get your training: _____
- Do you have any formal or practical training in a specialty area other than interpreting? If yes, what area(s)? (ie: education, carpentry, child development, mental health, car mechanics, law, etc) *Note: Some state licensures require specific training in content areas.*
What are your specialty areas? _____

How current is your training?

- Have you attended interpreting workshops or trainings in the past 3 years?
Yes or No: _____
- Have you attended Deaf interpreting workshops or trainings in the past 3 years?
Yes or No: _____
- Have you worked with a mentor in the past 3 years?
Yes or No: _____
- How much/how recent is your volunteer interpreting experience? _____

- How much/how recent is your paid interpreting experience? _____

Note: Most certification/licensure requirements require documentation of recent training and work experiences.

2. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Interpreting work in a variety of settings

Read through the list of interpreting settings below. Think about your current or previous job/roles and check the box that aligns with your experience level.

Interpreting Frequency: Interpreting work <i>Interpreting in a variety of settings</i>	Never (0)	Sometimes (1)	Often (2)
1. K-12 schools			
2. Colleges/universities			
3. Businesses			
4. Video relay services			
5. Theaters			
6. Social services			
7. Government agencies			
8. Community events/entertainment			
9. Immigration			
10. Religious services			
11. Medical			
12. Legal			
13. Detention facilities			
14. Local workshop/conference			
15. International workshop/conference			
16. Virtual			
17. Cruise			
18. Deaf Blind/Low Vision interpreter			

Total -/36

The more varied your experience, the more all-around your skills are. You can choose to specialize in specific settings; however this will limit your potential jobs. Most Deaf interpreters working in the community have all-around experience in a variety of job settings.

3. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Mode of interpreting

Read through the list of interpreting modalities below. Think about your current or previous job/roles and check the box that aligns your skill level in that mode.

Skill: Modalities of interpreting <i>using various modes of interpreting</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)

1. Consecutive interpreting			
2. Simultaneous interpreting			
3. Sight translation (in person)			
4. Video Translation (creating video translations)			
5. Platform interpreting			
6. Audience interpreting			
8. Theater: Shadow interpreting			
9. Theater: interpreting on side			
10. Monitoring (ie: table interpreter in legal setting or video translation reviewer)			

Total -/30

Consecutive interpreting is the typical gateway to Deaf interpreting work. The more varied your experience, the more capable you are of doing Deaf interpreting work in different modalities. Each modality has specific professional standards. You can choose to specialize in specific modalities; however this likely will limit your Deaf interpreting career opportunities.

4. Your Interpreting Skills and Current Competencies: Foundational skills of interpreting

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you’ve done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill: Foundational skills of interpreting <i>performing the foundational skills of interpreting:</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Sign production			
2. Use of space			
3. Depicting Action			
4. Register & Affect			
5. Cultural & linguistic mediation			
6. Pacing			
7. Boundaries/ethics			
8. Self-monitoring			
9. Ability to match language preference			
10. Message equivalency			
11. Confidence/comfort in interpreting			
12. Connection with consumers			
13. Processing Time			

Total -/39

The ability to break down and analyze each component of your interpreting skills is an advanced-level skill. It is essential for you to utilize focused training and deliberate practice to level up your interpreting abilities.

5. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Interpreting Protocols

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you've done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill: Interpreting Protocols <i>understanding the rationale for the protocols and their appropriate use</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Introducing and explaining the role of the Deaf interpreter and team interpreter			
2. Conducting a pre-session, session introduction, during session, and post-session discussion			
3. Managing the flow of communication			
4. Monitoring comprehension among consumer (s)			
5. Interpreting for groups (e.g. team, family conferences, teaching sessions, workshop sessions)			
6. Interpersonal skills (e.g. how to work with professionals, dealing with consumers, de-escalating conflict and etc.)			
7. Structured feedback- interpreter to interpreter feedback, and self-evaluation (self-reflective evaluation process)			

Total -/21

Understanding interpreting protocols ensures a consistent experience for consumers of interpreting service and enables effective teamwork among interpreters. Experience with and understanding of these professional-level protocols is assumed by interpreter agencies and hiring entities.

6. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Reformulation of message

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you've done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill: Reformulation of message <i>Reformulating messages accurately and completely from a source language to a target language. Do you include the following components:</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Active listening			
2. Target language equivalence (e.g. literal and figurative language, idioms, frozen language, literalness vs meaning accuracy, paraphrasing, and conversation vs. interviewing)			
3. Managing language and communication-language elements: regional variation signs, accents, style, language register, ASL expansion			

techniques, ASL discourse structure, and depicted action.			
4. Managing consumer's language deprivation and language disfluency			
5. Message source language discourse analysis			
6. Maintaining language register			
7. Culture Mediation (e.g. power dynamics, negotiation of meaning)			
8. Cultural elements of language (e.g. forms of address, politeness markers, turn-taking and interruptions, facial expression and body language)			
9. Concept and relevant terminology from consumer's perspective/cultural view			
10. Cultural awareness and sensitivity			
11. Extra Linguistic Knowledge (ELK)			
12. Deaf Extra Linguistic Knowledge (DELK)			
13. Memory skills (e.g. chunking, prediction, and visualization)			
14. Accuracy			
15. Theories of interpreting processes and breaking form			
16. Processing time			
17. Self-monitoring			

Total -/51

The ability to break down and analyze the process of message reformulation involves both an integral understanding of the interpreting process and the skill to self-analyze. This ability is essential for you to utilize focused training and deliberate practice to level up your interpreting abilities.

7. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Ability to mediate language and Culture

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you've done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill: Ability to mediate language and culture <i>mediating language and cultural differences</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Recognition and management of cultural disparities and conflicts			
2. Can determine consumer's level of understanding and world experience based on their language use and known life factors.			
3. Can amend language to fit consumer's level of understanding and world experience.			

4. Can determine consumer's knowledge of and comfort level with mainstream culture based on their responses and known life factors.			
5. Can build in cultural support into interpretation to enable consumer to participate as fully as possible.			
6. Ability to maintain Deaf interpreter's roles and boundaries between that of an advocate and professional interpreter			

Total -/18

The ability to break down and analyze the process mediating language and cultural differences involves both an integral understanding of the interpreting process and the skill to self-analyze. This ability is essential for you to utilize focused training and deliberate practice to level up your interpreting abilities.

8. Your Interpreting Experience and Current Competencies: Decision-making

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you've done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill/Experience: Decision-making <i>analyzing ethical and other professional dilemmas and situations</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Ethical decision-making: ability to think through an ethical dilemma and make an informed choice based on the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct			
2. Critical thinking: the ability to think through a situation and make an informed choice about the best course of action to take and then justify this action			
3. Ability to analyze the demands and controls you have in a given interpretation situation and ability to make easy, simple or difficult decisions.			
4. Ability to analyze one's own power, privilege, oppression and cultural biases and maintain professional and ethical interpreting.			
5. Ability to analyze own language attitude			
6. Ability to identify own core values			
7. Ability to analyze impact of language attitude and bias on a situation			
8. Understanding and use of Role Space framework for decision-making			
9. Understanding and use of Demand Control Schema for decision-making			

Professional decision making includes in-depth understanding of the guiding factors of best practice in interpreting protocol and the possibilities that can arise within an interpreted situation that call for professional judgement. Decision making frameworks such as Demand Control Schema and Role Space can guide the working interpreter to breakdown options and choose the best way forward. Shared understanding of decision making best practices makes interpreter teaming more effective and interpreted situations more successful.

9. Current Competencies: Able to assess need for DI/HI team

Read through the list of interpreting skills below. Think about the interpreting work you’ve done and check the box that aligns with your skill level.

Skill: Able to assess need for DI/HI team <i>Ability to identify indicators showing the need for a DI/HI team based on consumers, situations, or risk factors</i>	Emerging (1)	Developing (2)	Competent (3)
1. Ability to assess, identify and explain consumer indicators			
2. Ability to assess, identify and explain situational indicators			
3. Ability to assess, identify and explain the risk factors			
4. Ability to explain the accessibility and cultural experience for Deaf consumers by comparing the hearing and Deaf consumers’ experience			

Interpreter should possess understanding of best practice standards for use of Deaf-hearing interpreter teaming including an in-depth knowledge of the process and the ability to explain options for setting up this means of access. Interpreters will be called on to make professional judgement of interpreting situations and make recommendations based on factors such as setting/content, level of risk, and consumer indicators. This includes understanding local/national Deaf interpreter availability and the means to coordinate all factors.

References:

Adapted source from:

<https://www.ncihc.org/assets/documents/Interpreter%20Training%20Program%20Self-assessment%2006-22-2011%20%282%29.pdf>