Certify to potential employers that you possess the bilingual proficiency, cultural understanding, theoretical knowledge, and skill set they need. Graduates of our programs go on to own and operate their own translation and interpretation service companies, freelance, and work in both the public and private sectors.

Set yourself apart from the competition by obtaining the Specialized Certificate in Translation or the Professional Certificate in Translation and Interpretation from UC San Diego Extension.

Our programs are flexible. They allow you to specialize by professional industry (legal, business, and medical) or remain a generalist with plenty of opportunity to practice and refine your skills. The programs are recognized by the nation’s leading translation association, the American Translator’s Association (ATA), and are approved providers of continuing education for the Judicial Council of California and the ATA.

UC San Diego Extension has an established track record of serving the ongoing educational needs of adults in the greater San Diego area and is widely known as the source for the most current information in a wide range of professions. Since 1966, UC San Diego Extension’s professional certificate programs have helped thousands of individuals to qualify for new jobs, justify promotions, or explore new careers.

Continuing education is regularly required by a variety of organizations to ensure that translators and interpreters maintain and improve their skills on a regular basis. Many of our courses offer continuing education credit.

FAQ

To learn more about our programs and courses, please visit our website at extension.ucsd.edu/languages.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Attend a free information session to familiarize yourself with the certificate programs and the professional translators and interpreters who create and teach the courses.

PROGRAM PREPARATION

We recommend you start with an introductory course, Introduction to Translation or Introduction to Interpretation. You may also sign up for English to Spanish Translation I or Spanish to English Translation I, as both courses provide an intensive review to support error-free translations.

If you need to improve your language skills before entering a program, UC San Diego Extension offers a variety of courses to meet your needs including, English grammar, writing and conversation, as well as advanced Spanish conversation and fluency courses. Similar courses offered elsewhere are encouraged as well.

WHEN CAN I ENROLL IN THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS?

You may enroll in select courses at any time but you may not officially enroll in the Specialized Certificate in Translation or the Professional Certificate in Translation and Interpretation until after you pass the entrance exam. Coursework completed before you pass the exam will be applied once you officially enroll in a certificate program. If you have already passed the entrance exam and are enrolled in either certificate program, you are subject to the certificate requirements in place during the quarter of your enrollment.

How much do translators and interpreters make?

The pay scale varies based on experience level and the particulars of a project. See our website for details.

Certification Examinations

There is currently no national form of certification required for interpreters and translators in the United States. However there are a variety of exams that you can take to demonstrate proficiency to your employer. Information on these exams and other resources can be found on our website.