

Testing and certification in Chinese and other languages, for those interested in working as an interpreter or translator:

The American Translators Association provides certification in more than 24 language combinations for its members; other options include a certification program offered by The Translators and Interpreters Guild. Many interpreters are not certified.

Federal courts have certification for Spanish, Navajo, and Haitian Creole interpreters, and many State and municipal courts offer their own forms of certification. The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators also offers certification for court interpreting.

The U.S. Department of State has a three-test series for interpreters, including simple consecutive interpreting (for escort work), simultaneous interpreting (for court or seminar work), and conference-level interpreting (for international conferences). These tests are not referred to directly as certification, but successful completion often indicates that a person has an adequate level of skill to work in the field.

Organizations dedicated to these professions can provide valuable advice and guidance to people interested in learning more about interpretation and translation. The language services division of local hospitals or courthouses also may have information about available opportunities.

For general career information, contact the organizations listed below:

American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Ln., Suite 590,
Alexandria, VA 22314. Internet: <http://www.atanet.org>

For more detailed information by specialty, contact the association affiliated with that subject area:

American Literary Translators Association, The University of Texas at Dallas, Box 830688 Mail Station JO51, Richardson, TX 75083-0688. Internet: <http://www.literarytranslators.org>

Localization Industry Standards Association, Domaine en Prael, CH-1323 Romainmôtier, Switzerland. Internet: <http://www.lisa.org>

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, 603 Stewart St., Suite 610, Seattle, WA 98101. Internet: <http://www.najit.org>

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care, 270 West Lawrence St., Albany, NY 12208. Internet: <http://www.ncihc.org>

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, 333 Commerce St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Internet: <http://www.rid.org>

For information about testing to become a contract interpreter or translator with the U.S. State Department, contact:

U.S. Department of State, Office of Language Services, 2401 E St. NW., SA-1, Room H1400, Washington, DC 20520-2204.

Information on obtaining positions as interpreters and translators with the Federal Government is available from the Office of Personnel Management through USAJOBS, the Federal Government's official employment information system. This resource for locating and applying for job opportunities can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> or through an interactive voice response telephone system at (703) 724-1850 or TDD (978) 461-8404. These numbers are not toll free, and charges may result. For advice on how to find and apply for Federal jobs, see the *Occupational Outlook*

Quarterly article "How to get a job in the Federal Government," online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/oog/2004/summer/art01.pdf>.