



# Florida Court Interpreter Certification and Regulation Program

## ORAL PERFORMANCE EXAMINATIONS

### *Board Operating Procedures*

#### I. Oral Examination and Oral Proficiency Interview Cut Scores for Officially Designated Interpreters

##### A. Full Oral Exam Cut-Score (Certified): Voted and adopted by the board on April 4, 2012

The full oral performance examination comprises three distinct sections, designed to test candidates' skill in the areas of sight translation, consecutive interpretation, and simultaneous interpretation. In order to achieve a passing score on the exam, candidates must earn the following minimum scores on each section:

- Sight Translation – *English to Foreign Language*: 65%
- Sight Translation – *Foreign Language to English*: 65%
- Overall Sight Translation Score: 70%
- Consecutive Interpretation: 70%
- Simultaneous Interpretation: 70%

##### B. Full Oral Exam Cut-Score (Provisionally Approved): Voted and adopted by the board on February 12, 2013

The board adopted cut scores proposed by the Rule Revision Workgroup, which requires candidates score a minimum of 60 percent on all three components of the full oral exam, and an overall 65 percent or greater.

##### C. Abbreviated Oral Exam Cut-Score (Certified): Voted and adopted by the board on February 12, 2013

The board voted that candidates must demonstrate functional speaking ability by passing an English and non-English language oral proficiency interview, as a prerequisite to taking an abbreviated oral examination. Note: The abbreviated oral exam consists of a simultaneous component. Candidates must score a minimum 70 percent to qualify for Certification.

##### D. Language Skilled Cut-Score: Voted and adopted by the board on April 4, 2012

To qualify for the Language Skilled designation, candidates must pass an approved oral proficiency interview in English and the non-English language as an assessment of functional speaking ability.

- E. Oral Proficiency Interview Cut-Score: Voted and adopted by the board on September 16, 2014

Candidates are required to score at the Superior level on oral proficiency interviews offered through Language Testing International (LTI); candidates must score at a Level 12 rating score for oral proficiency interviews offered through ALTA Language Services.

## II. Oral Examination and Oral Proficiency Interview Cut Scores for Registered Interpreters

**Rule Requirement.** Effective October 1, 2015, under rule 14.200, court interpreters shall, prior to providing interpreter services, become registered with the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Board operating procedures governing oral examination threshold scores are outlined below.

- A. In accordance with rule 14.200(i), registration may be revoked by the board for any person who fails to attain minimum scores, in accordance with standards prescribed by the board and published in board operating procedures, on the sight translation, simultaneous interpretation, and consecutive interpretation components during a single test administration as specified under rule 14.200(b)(7)(i) or (b)(7)(iii), or who fails to demonstrate satisfactory functional speaking ability as prescribed by the board during an oral proficiency interview under rule 14.200(b)(7)(ii). As adopted by the board on March 26, 2015, for maintenance of registered status:
- for those languages in which a full oral performance examination is available, candidates must attain a minimum 55 percent score on all exam components during a single test administration, with an overall score of 60 percent.
  - in the event only an abbreviated oral performance examination is available, as a prerequisite to taking the abbreviated exam, candidates must first demonstrate functional speaking ability by attaining a minimum score of Advanced High or 11 on the oral proficiency interviews in both English and a non-English language, and must subsequently achieve a minimum score of 55 on the abbreviated exam; or
  - for languages in which no full or abbreviated oral performance examination is available, candidates must attain a minimum score of Advanced High or 11 on the oral proficiency interviews in both English and a non-English language.
- B. Without exception, this policy applies to every test administration under 14.200(b)(7)(i), b(7)(ii) and (b)(7)(iii)—to include a registered candidate’s initial test

attempt and subsequent test attempts, per language, as applicable. (Adopted by the board on August 25, 2016.)

- C. The board has instituted a time-limited policy not to exercise discretionary revocation for any currently registered interpreter that has tested [or will test in September 2016] and fails to achieve minimum registration threshold scores. (Adopted by the board on August 25, 2016.)
- D. For tests administered subsequent to September 2016, the board will convene a meeting within 11 weeks of every regularly scheduled oral performance examination/oral proficiency administration to consider prospective administrative revocation for any person who fails to attain minimum board-prescribed threshold performance scores. (Adopted by the board on August 25, 2016.)
- E. Minimum threshold score performance applies to oral testing measures taken out of state. As such, interpreters must notify program staff of (1) their intent to sit for an out-of-state oral examination no later than 30 days in advance of the examination date, or (2) no later than the date of registering for an out-of-oral examination—if there are less than 30 days remaining before the examination date. (Adopted by the board on August 25, 2016.)
- F. Interpreters registering and appearing for oral testing who (1) either refuse to begin testing, or (2) terminate testing after examination has begun, who thereby effectively acquiesce in a lower score on one or more components of examination, will, without exception, be subject to discretionary revocation for failure to achieve minimum threshold scores under Rule 14.200(i). (Adopted by the board on November 30, 2016.)

### **III. Oral Performance Examination Retest Policy**

The time frame within which an interpreter can register to retake the examination varies from state to state. Florida policy provides that no candidate may take the same test version more than once in a six-month period. There are no limitations to the number of retest attempts candidates may take in pursuit of official state-level designation and to meet maintenance of registration requirements, as applicable. (Adopted by the board on September 29, 2017).