

# *Sign Language Proficiency Testing for CCC Interpreter Training Program Candidates*

## *Notes for the SLPI Candidate*

As part of your acceptance into the CCC American Sign Language Interpreter Training Program, you will have the opportunity for an objective, neutral assessment of your ASL communication skills. This occurs through an evaluation called the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). The SLPI is primarily a modification of the original Language Proficiency Interview (LPI) test devised by the United States Department of State Foreign Service Institute.

### *What is the CCC ASL Interpreter Training Program SLPI required level?*

Intermediate, with Intermediate Plus *preferred*, prior to admission to the program. See level description below.

### *What happens during the SLPI?*

The SLPI involves a one-to-one conversation between the interviewer and interviewee, with each interview recorded and subsequently rated independently by SLPI raters. The interviews are conducted via Video Phone (VP) or in person, depending on your location and the interviewer you select. The basis for ratings is the SLPI Rating Scale, a standard scale based on highly skilled, knowledgeable native/native-like signers. For more information on the SLPI, please see the website at <http://www.ntid.rit.edu/slpi>.

### *What is the cost of the SLPI?*

The cost for the SLPI is roughly \$100.00 per interview but CCC is willing defray 50% of the interview cost up to \$50.00. You will have an unbiased, accurate assessment of your skills, along with valuable information on how to improve. Additionally, you will be able to use the SLPI rating on your resume, as legitimate proof of your sign language skills, and for entrance to the CCC ASL Interpreter Training Program. This is not an interpreting assessment, it focuses on your conversational sign language skills.

### *Your responsibility?*

As a candidate for the CCC ASL Interpreter Training Program, you are expected to contact an SLPI interviewer and make arrangements to be evaluated. Remember that your results are needed as part of the application packet, so make arrangements in advance to give the interviewer ample time to send you the final results.

As stated above, CCC will pay 50% of the cost of your evaluation up to \$50.00. Please contact one of the interviewers listed below and request an SLPI evaluation. You will need to include a copy of the results with your application packet.

### *What is tested in the SLPI?*

As an criterion-based evaluation designed to test your overall ability to use and understand ASL, each interview is rated on the basis of specific criterion in five different categories:

1. *Visual-gestural production:*

How you form and execute signs, numbers, and fingerspelling; your use of space and facial expressions and upper body movements that are not grammatical.

2. *ASL grammar:*

How clearly and effectively you incorporate visual grammar components of ASL into your signed messages. These include things like topic-comment structure, question types, use of classifiers, and sign modulations and inflections.

3. *Sign vocabulary:*

How accurate and extensive your sign vocabulary appears to be and how you select ASL signs across a variety of topics to fit what you are talking about. Use of colloquial expressions and figurative language is also looked at.

4. *Fluency:*

The overall evenness with how you communicate your thoughts and ideas in signs, fingerspelling, and numbers. Also looked at is whether your rhythm and pace of delivery fit the topic(s) under discussion.

5. *Comprehension:*

Your overall understanding of the interview questions, the comments, and statements made during the interview. Your visual feedback or backchanneling also helps determine how well you understood the interviewer.

*Getting ready for the SLPI:*

The best preparation for the SLPI evaluation is interacting with ASL users, especially those who have native-like signs in ASL. While reviewing grammar or vocabulary, or watching ASL videos may be helpful as learning techniques, these activities are less helpful in improving test performance (and ASL skills in general) than “real-life communication interactions”.

*Guidelines on Appropriate Dress*

On the day of your assessment, please dress appropriately. In order to be seen clearly on the Video Phone (VP) please wear solid colored clothes that contrast with your skin color.

SLPI Interviewers:

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HARIS

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