

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
of the **COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON**

Newly revised Master of Arts degree in Bilingual Legal Interpreting for English-Spanish Speakers

For over ten years, the Graduate School of the College of Charleston has offered a Master's degree and a graduate-level certificate program in Bilingual Legal Interpreting. The curriculum for these programs has recently been revised, and we are happy to announce that we are once again accepting applications. If you are familiar with these programs, one major revision you will notice is the change from a summer-based program to an academic year format.

The Master's degree program is a comprehensive, sequenced, and integrated series of courses designed to provide students with the theoretical foundation, performance competencies, and research skills required when entering this growing profession. The curriculum consists of 13 courses, which allows students to complete the Master of Arts degree in 18 months.

The Certificate program is especially valuable for those enrolled in other language oriented graduate programs, work as a translator, or simply wish to learn about the profession in general and acquire some of the needed skills. Students can earn the certificate by completing the four courses, offered between May and August.

These Interpreting programs were created in response to the tremendous increase in the South Carolina Latino population and the need to meet the special legal needs arising from that population growth. Currently, South Carolina leads the rest of the country experiencing this rate of increase in the Latino population.

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The Masters of Arts in Bilingual Legal Interpreting for English-Spanish continues to be the only graduate program in the United States to offer the opportunity to receive the education and training of a professional degree-holding legal interpreter.

Federal, state and municipal courts throughout the nation are facing a severe shortage of qualified interpreters. Legal interpreters are also in high demand in all areas of law enforcement, administrative hearings and community service agencies. Additionally, attorneys regularly seek qualified interpreters for assistance with communicating effectively with Hispanic clients of limited English proficiency. In light of current and future needs for professionally trained interpreters, employment opportunities for individuals with these unique skills will continue to flourish during this and future decades.

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The facility design, newly installed digital technology and training materials offers optimum conditions for development of interpreting skills.

Our interpreting facility includes 12 sound-proof booths, constructed according to International Standard Organization specifications, and is equipped to receive audio and video transmissions. Student performance is monitored from the master console that controls all transmissions. Seminars and lectures are conducted around a large conference table that occupies the central area of the facility.

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Various financial assistance options are available.

All vacant fellowship, scholarship and assistantship opportunities are listed at www.cofc.edu/gradschool. As assistantships become available, they are typically posted on this website, so check regularly for new openings. The Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough scholarship is also available to fully admitted degree-seeking students who demonstrate both a financial need and a commitment to the interpreting profession.

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***The application deadline to begin classes in August is April 15, 2007.
Those interested may apply online at <http://www.applyweb.com/apply/cofc>***

Admissions requirements: a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education with at least six courses completed in the language that is not the official language of the institution awarding the degree; Superior proficiency in English and Spanish; living experience in a Hispanic country is preferred; a combined score of 1000 of the verbal and quantitative sections, and a score of 3-6 on the writing assessment section. You must take our General Interpreting Aptitude Examination, which is administered by the Program. Candidates who meet the criteria mentioned will be given preference. Candidates who have not completed six courses in their second language, but have comparable language experience in other settings may be considered.

You are encouraged to explore these programs more at <http://www.cofc.edu/~legalint/>. You can also contact us at 843.953.5614 or via email at gradstud@cofc.edu.

*"The program fills a very real void of great importance for people who have difficulty with a legal system that is very new to them, not only in South Carolina, but indeed throughout the nation."
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education*

Sincerely,
Niki DeWeese
Assistant Director, Information & Recruitment

