

Welcome to the **New Hampshire Interpreter Classification System-Advanced (NHICS-Advanced)**

The NHICS-Advanced, an extension of the NHCIS, is an advanced level examination testing your skill and ability to appropriately apply the NAD/RID Code of Professional Conduct and successfully interpret between spoken English and American Sign Language. Candidates wishing to take the NHICS-Advanced must have already taken the NHICS and are nearing the end of their 6 year cycle and have not yet achieved national certification. Successful candidates will be awarded their NHICS-Advanced (which is valid for 3 years) and are eligible to continue their NH Interpreter Licensure. If you are interested in taking the NHICS, please contact Lynn Littlefield at lynn.e.littlefield@doe.nh.gov or call at 603-271-3877 to request an application packet.

The application packet will include:

- A confidentiality statement
- Application to be filled out by candidate

Once your application has been completed and approved, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment. Appointments are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. All screening appointments will take place at the state offices of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301.

The test: The two portions of the NHICS, the interview and the performance, will be administered on the same day.

1. Interview: Candidates whose applications are accepted will be scheduled for an interview. During the interview, you will be shown a video featuring two interviewers who will ask five (5) questions. Each question will be asked two (2) times. Your answers to the questions will be videotaped. The Deaf interviewer will ask questions in American Sign Language (ASL) and the interviewer who can hear will ask questions in spoken English. You should answer the question using the same language in which it was asked. These questions will be based on the Code of Professional Conduct and your application of that to real life situations. The interview is pass/fail. A score of 75% or higher is required to pass.

2. Performance Examination: The performance examination is pass/fail; a score of 75% or higher is required to pass.

a. Warm-up: Before the actual examination, candidates will have a 30-minute warm-up period. During that time they will have an opportunity to watch/listen to a DVD introducing the speakers/signers involved in the actual screening. These introductions are short (about one minute each) to allow candidates time to review the introductions of each speaker, multiple times if necessary.

b. Selections: The performance examination will include one (1) selection of videotaped dialogue of approximately ten (10) minutes each requiring the candidate to both interpret spoken English into ASL and ASL into spoken English. The performance portion will also be videotaped.

A copy of the videos of both the interview and the performance will be sent to a total of 4 raters (2 who are deaf/hard of hearing and 2 who can hear). For the interview, the team will assess the candidate's knowledge of and ability to apply information regarding the RID/NAD Code of Professional Conduct;

interpreter business practices; and resources for interpreters and deaf and hard of hearing consumers. The raters will also evaluate candidate's communication skills (spoken and signed) and professional presentation. For the performance, the team will assess the ability to comprehend the applicant, based on the applicant's clarity, use of grammar, level of discourse, use of classifiers, message equivalency transmitted by the applicant, the interpreting process, and the applicant's professionalism.

The NHICS-Advanced will be valid for a period of 3 years. The expectation is that candidates will use this 3 year period to prepare for, take and pass the national exam. The NHICS-Advanced can be re-taken (every three (3) years, if necessary) until national certification is achieved.

The CEU requirement for the NHICS, 8.0 CEUs in a 4 year period of time (basically 20 hours a year) will continue with the NHICS-Advanced.

For the NHICS-Advanced, there is a mandatory mentoring/skills training component. NHICS-Advanced interpreters will need to spend at least 10 hours a year in 1:1 or group mentoring or skills training workshops. Interpreters will be responsible to find/create their own mentoring/skills training workshop opportunities.

To request a packet and start the NHICS-Advanced process, please contact Lynn Littlefield at lynn.e.littlefield@doe.nh.gov or call at 603-271-3877.