

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UT Austin Center for Professional Education launches Houston program to meet rising demand for medical interpreters

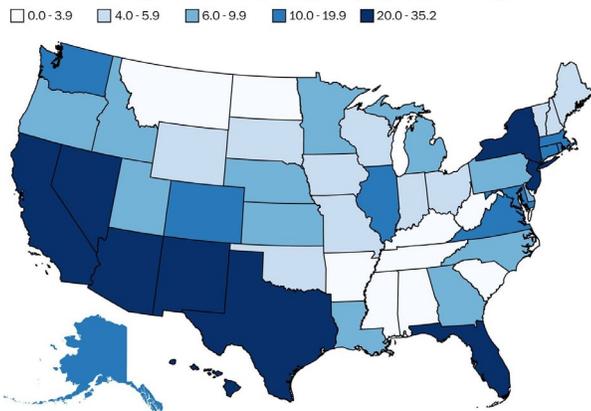
AUSTIN, Texas— The University of Texas at Austin’s Center for Professional Education will launch its Medical Interpreter Certificate Program in Houston this fall to help meet the city’s growing demand for medical interpreters. The three-month program will be conducted at the UT School of Dentistry campus and will begin on October 3. The program is open to anyone seeking a career as a medical interpreter who holds at least a high school diploma (or equivalent) and is proficient in both English and Spanish. An on-site [information session](#) is scheduled for the evening of September 5.

“Houston is amazingly diverse, with a globally recognized medical center and healthcare industry,” stated Liliya Spinazzola, director of the university’s Center for Professional Education within the TEXAS Extended Campus. “It was a natural step for us to expand our medical interpreter certificate program to a city where the demand for these workers is on the rise. Medical interpreters play a vital role as liaison between doctor and patient, often in life-threatening situations. We’re excited about bringing in a quality program that will further serve this need.”

The outlook for professional interpreters is promising, with the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) projecting 18% growth in interpreter and translator jobs through 2026, well above the projected average job growth of 7%.

While the median annual salary for medical interpreters varies depending on the facility (hospital, physician’s office, dental office, nursing home, imaging center, etc.), a hospital medical interpreter in Houston can expect to earn in the neighborhood of \$50,000 a year. As shown at left, Texas ranks among the highest in populations that speak a language other than English at home, further indicating the expansive market for medical interpreters.

The most linguistically diverse states
% of U.S. citizens age 18 and older speaking a language other than English at home



Source: U.S. Census, 2016 American Community Survey
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Similar to the program currently conducted on campus in Austin, the Center for Professional Education’s Houston program will provide students with the 40 hours of education required by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the National Board for Certified Medical Interpreters (NBCMI). Upon completion of the program, students will be prepared for and eligible to take the Medical Interpreter Performance Test to obtain certification.

For more information, visit:
<https://professionaled.utexas.edu/interpretation-translation>

About [TEXAS Extended Campus](#)

As part of The University of Texas at Austin, TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) draws upon the multiple strengths of the University to develop and offer programs that serve working professionals and lifelong learners in Austin and across Texas. Faculty members, industry professionals and curriculum experts produce courses and programs to benefit students at the high school, college and professional levels. Courses are available on campus, online and on site.

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