**Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) General Information**

The Interpreter Certification and Resource Center (ICRC), which is under the State of Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services uses the Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) system to evaluate individuals who wants to become a certified interpreter in the State of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services administers QAST to follow Title 56, Section 1992.2.

Title 56, Section 199.2 of Oklahoma statute directs the Department of Rehabilitation Services to establish policy and procedures for the evaluation and certification of interpreters for the deaf in Oklahoma and authorizes the Department to charge a fee to recoup costs incurred in testing and certifying interpreters.

***History of Mid-America Quality Assurance Screening Test***

The Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) had it’s beginning in the early 1980s. Many individuals who pioneered the field of interpreting saw the need for a user friendly and affordable assessment process.

Gallaudet University Regional Center at Johnson County College in Overland Park, Kansas, sponsored a stakeholders’ meeting. Soon after the meeting, a team of professionals gathered to create the Mid-America Quality Assurance Screening Test. The team had two main objectives:

* To develop a certification system that would test skills and ethics of interpreters, and
* To establish standards at various skill levels.

The finished product was shared with each state involved in the process: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

The QAST continues successfully under the guidance of the Oklahoma Interpreter Certification Resource Center, housed in the Oklahoma Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing office. QAST requires a successful completion of a written ethics-based test, which is a state-developed test.

**Effective August 11, 2024**

**612:10-13-16. Evaluation**

(a) **Evaluation components and conditions.** An applicant must be 18 years old or older to be eligible to take the written examination and the skill-based performance evaluation. To be eligible to take the skill-based interpreter performance evaluation, an applicant should have earned at least 30 credit hours from an accredited college or university, with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher or 60 hours of Continuing Education Units relating to interpreting. To be certified as an interpreter, an applicant must pass a skill-based performance evaluation. The process for certification consists of a written examination and a sign language skill-based performance evaluation. The written examination and performance interview may include items from the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct and the Certification Levels limitations. Interpreters who hold Level III certification in either Interpreting or Transliterating are required to take the IV/V performance evaluation, which is in compliance with the Ethical Standards.

***QAST 411 training***

ICRC implemented a QAST 411 training that could be beneficial for candidates to become knowledgeable of ICRC/QAST procedures and their responsibilities when certified. Additionally, various ethical situations will be analyzed and discussed, which will offer guidance in what is expected on the QAST situational ethical portion (the interview) and how to support decisions/solutions with the CPC, Limitations, and various laws.

The QAST 411 training is conducted via Zoom. <https://zoom.us/join>

Here are the steps to register and participate in the QAST 411 training via Zoom.

* Contact ICRC@okdrs.gov for available date and time.

***General Written Information***

* Must be 18 years or older to take the general written exam.
* Must have at least 30 college hours or 60 hours of continuing educational units before eligible to take the general written exam.
	+ Proof of eligibility must be provided day of test.
* Must take and pass QAST written examination before eligible for the skill-based performance.
* Oklahoma residents - $50.00, Non-residents- $100.00. Proof of residency is required.
	+ - Money order accepted. Cash, debt, or credit cards not accepted.
		- Bring fee day of scheduled test.
* There is not a QAST written application, must make appointment with either of these sites by contacting via email or telephone:

 Oklahoma City Metro area – **must schedule date and time**

 5005 N. Lincoln Blvd, #205, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105

LV Berglund, 405-522-7930, 1-800-833-8973, Lberglund@okdrs.gov or KNutt@okdrs.gov

Tulsa area – **must call to schedule date and time**

8740 E. 11th Suite A, Tulsa, OK

918-836-5556

Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) – **LIMITED AVAILABITY**

Anne Byrd abyrd@osd.k12.ok.us Must include in email subject: ICRC/QAST Written test

1100 East Oklahoma Ave, Sulphur, OK

***Detailed Written Information***

* Consists of seventy-five (75) multiple-choice questions. Questions cover various issues

 such as: ICRC/QAST Limitations of Levels, various Interpreting situations, and Deaf Culture.

* Approximately takes 1 ½ - 2 hours, not timed.
* Must pass with 86% to be eligible for the QAST performance portion.
* If passing score of 86% is not achieved, must wait thirty (30) days before eligible to re-test.
* Written exam is valid for 3 years. An individual has 3 years from the written passing date to take the QA performance evaluation. If an individual fails to take the performance portion or does not receive QA level in the 3 years from written passing date, the individual must re-take the written before eligible for QA performance

 evaluation.

* Must be knowledgeable of required study material for the written portion.
* Study material listed at end of General Information page.
* Cell phones and personal belongs (bags, purses) will not be allowed in the testing room.
* There is a designed locked area for your cell phone and personal belongs during the exam.
* Please do not wear any type of scented products (cologne, perfume, essential oils, lotion, etc.)

***General Performance Information***

* Submit a QAST Performance Application and applicable fee to address on application.
* Submit proof of completing 30 college hours or 60 hours of CEUs.
* A candidate must provide a valid email on the application; candidate will receive QAST correspondence via email.
* QAST performance will only be reserved by submitting application and fee.
* Oklahoma residents -$125.00, Non-residents- $250.00.
* Proof of residency required.
* Personal check or money order accepted. Cash, debt or credit card not accepted.
* QAST Performance Application can be downloaded from DRS website

 <http://www.okdrs.org/ICRC> or contact ICRC Program Specialist, LBerglund@okdrs.gov

 ***Detailed Performance Information***

* Performance evaluations are administered monthly, except January and February.

Check the DRS/ICRC event calendar on the website for available dates and times. <http://www.okdrs.org/ICRC>

* Approximately a 3-5 month waiting period for QAST performance availably.
* QAST performance is divided into two interactive (transliterating and interpreting) performance

 sections, I-III and IV-V. A candidate can apply to take either the I-III performance evaluation or

 the IV-V performance evaluation.

* Must pass the ethics situational portion with 80% before skill levels will be awarded.
* Candidate is required to take the interview portion each time taking the performance.
* RID Code of Professional Conduct (CPC), ICRC/QAST Limitations of Levels, Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act, and the Oklahoma Legal Interpreter Act will be provided in the warmup room for review.
* It is a video evaluation.
	+ - Video evaluation – The testing candidate and a Transliterator are the only ones in evaluation room. The evaluation will be recorded for three (3) evaluators to score later. The candidate will receive evaluation results in approximately eight weeks.
* Candidate is allotted an hour warm-up opportunity before scheduled evaluation performance.
* Cell phones and personal belongs (bags, purses) will not be allowed in the warm-up or testing room. There is a designated locked room for cell phone and personal belongs during the evaluation procedure.
* There are three parts to performance: ethics situational interview, interactive interpreting (expressive signing and receptive voicing) and interactive transliterating (expressive signing and receptive voicing). It is important the candidate knows and can demonstrate the difference between interpreting and transliterating.
* Candidate can choose which performance portion to begin with: interview then interactive or interactive then interview.
* Candidate can choose which interactive portion to begin with: transliterating or interpreting.
* Certification is based on a skill level percentage per Transliterating and Interpreting.
* Entry Level Beginner Level I/I 50% - 69%
* Intermediate Level Beginner Level II/II 70%-84%
* Advanced Level Beginner Level III/III 85% - 100%
* Accomplished Level Level IV/IV 80%-89%
* Master Level Level V/V 90% - 100%

***Ethical Situations Portion***

 **What information about the ethical situations portion do I need to know?**

* Must pass with an 80% on the ethical situations portion before levels will be awarded.
* Study material required.
	+ - RID Code of Professional Conduct (CPC), Oklahoma ICRC Limitations of Levels, Oklahoma

Legal Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Act, and Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act.

* + The RID CPC and ICRC Limitations of Levels can be downloaded from the DRS website

 http://www.okdrs.org/ICRC or contact ICRC Program Specialist for study material.

* + Required study material listed at the end of General Information page.

**How can one demonstrate their knowledge during the ethical situations portion?**

Knowing how to handle or make ethical decisions is integrated into the Ethical Situations portion. It is firmly expected and required to see how an interpreter would make decisions, or handle a certain situation, by applying and supporting their decision and/or situation with RID CPC, ICRC Level of Limitations, and/or Laws/Acts. The Interview focuses on attitude, composure, assignment readiness, and professionalism: any of any of these can play a role in making a professional ethical decision and how an interpreter presents himself or herself to the interpreting profession.

***Confirming a Scheduled Evaluation***

**What to expect after an application and fee is submitted?**

* Will receive a letter of tentative evaluation date and time, via email, after ICRC receives application and fee.
* Approximately four (4) weeks prior to the evaluation performance date, a candidate will receive a confirmation letter, via email, to accept or decline date and time of the performance.
* Return electronic confirmation letter by due date listed on letter. Verbal confirmation is not accepted.
* If confirmation is not received by due date, the candidate will be removed from evaluation date and time and be at risk of forfeiting the performance fee.

**What if a candidate needs to reschedule an evaluation?**

A candidate may request, without risk of forfeiting fee, in writing or e-mail to reschedule his/her performance evaluation three (3) weeks prior to scheduled evaluation. The new date must be within one (1) year of the original application date, or the fee is forfeited. A one-time reschedule is permitted.

**Will the fee be forfeited if an emergency occurs preventing a candidate from testing on their scheduled evaluation?**

If the candidate contacts the ICRC Program Specialist immediately, and has supportive documentation of justification, then the application and fee will not be forfeited. If cancellation is due to an emergency, (accident, sudden illness, or natural disaster) appropriate supportive documentation is required for rescheduling to the next available evaluation date.

**Is there a requirement in submitting an application and fee before a certification expires?**

Yes, to maintain QA levels, it is required to submit an application and appropriate fee 160 days prior to the levels expiration date. This will allow the certified interpreter to retain the QA levels until the next available evaluation date. If certification becomes invalid for non-compliance, a candidate must take and pass the written exam before eligible for the performance evaluation.

**Are there requirements for maintaining certification?**

Yes, an interpreter must satisfy 1 CEU and pay an annual renewal fee. The 1 (10 hours) Continuing Education units (CEUs) are due annually by December 31st  and the $50.00 renewal fee is due annually by January 31st. If either of the requirements are not met by the due date, QA certification will become invalid. It is the interpreter’s responsibility to keep track of their submitted CEUs; they can review their CEU transcript at <http://www.okdrs.gov/ICRC>

**What other requirements are there?** An interpreter is responsible for knowing the various laws that will affect the interpreting profession. The Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act and the Oklahoma Legal Interpreter for the Deaf Act. Additionally, it is the interpreter’s responsibility to comply with the Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act and register with the State Department of Education if they function in ANY capacity as a K-12 educational interpreter in the classroom. If the interpreter fails to follow the legal aspect, they may run the risk of having a formal grievance filed against them and their certification becoming invalid.

***INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION RESOURCE CENTER (ICRC) STAFF***

LV Berglund, ICRC Program Specialist. 405-213-5203, LBerglund@okdrs.gov

Keri Nutt, ICRC Program Technician, 405-246-0520 VP, KNutt@okdrs.gov

SDHH/ICRC, 5005 N. Lincoln Blvd, #205, Oklahoma City, OK , 73105, 1-800-833-8973

***STUDY REFERENCE MATERIAL***

**Written portion**

Frishberg, N. (1990). *Interpreting: an introduction (chapter 4 & 6)*. Alexandria, VA: RID Press

Humphrey, J.H. & Alcorn, B.J. (2001). *So you want to be an interpreter: an introduction to sign language interpreting* (4th ed.). Clearwater, FL: H&H Publishing

Mindess, A. (1999), *Reading between the signs: intercultural communication for sign language interpreters (Chapters 3,4, & 5).* Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press. **(MUST READ)**

*RID Code of Professional Conduct (CPC.* RID website. [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

*Oklahoma QAST Limitations of Levels*. DRS/ICRC website. [www.okdrs.gov/ICRC](http://www.okdrs.gov/ICRC)

**Interview**

Frishberg, N. (1990). *Interpreting: an introduction (chapter 4 & 6)*. Alexandria, VA: RID Press

Humphrey, J.H. & Alcorn, B.J. (2001). *So you want to be an interpreter: an introduction to sign language interpreting* (4th ed.). Clearwater, FL: H&H Publishing

Mindess, A. (1999), *Reading between the signs: intercultural communication for sign language interpreters.* Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

*RID Code of Professional Conduct (CPC).* RID website. www.rid.org

*Oklahoma QAST Limitations of Levels.*  DRS website. <http://www.okdrs.org/ICRC>

*Oklahoma Legal Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Act.* https://okrid.org/resources-2/laws-and-links/

*Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the Deaf Act.*  https://okrid.org/resources-2/laws-and-links/

**Performance**

Mindess, A. (1999). *Reading between the signs: intercultural communication for sign language interpreters.* Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press. \*Chapter 8: Techniques for Cultural Adjustments

Patrie, C. (1992). Fingerspelled word recognition skills in sign language interpreters: a

comparison between novice and experienced interpreters. *Journal of Interpretation*, 5-1, 1992, 51-90.

Spingarn, T. (2001). Knowledge of deaf community-related words, symbols and acronyms among hearing people: implications for the production of an equivalent interpretation. *Journal of Interpretation*, 2001, 69-84.

Taylor, M. (2002). *Interpretation skills: American sign language to English*. Alberta, Canada: Interpreting Consolidated.

Taylor, M. (1993). *Interpretation skills: English to American sign language*. Alberta, Canada: Interpreting

ICRC has compiled several links to obtain CEUs

Some are at a fee, and some are free.

**CALI – Northeast University – Center for Atypical Language Interpreting – free**

* [Webinars - Center for Atypical Language Interpreting (northeastern.edu)](https://cssh.northeastern.edu/cali/webinars/)

**CEUs on the Go – fee**

* [Home - CEUs on the Go!](https://ceusonthego.com/?doing_wp_cron=1707144315.3428080081939697265625)

**Signs of Development – fee**

* [Signs of Development, LLC (signs-of-development.org)](http://signs-of-development.org/)

**CEUflix – feet**

* [CEUflix - ASL Online Courses for Interpreters (thinkific.com)](https://ceuflix.thinkific.com/bundles/ceuflix-courses)

**CATIE Center – St. Catherine University – free**

* [Resources for Interpreting in Healthcare Settings - CATIE Center (healthcareinterpreting.org)](https://healthcareinterpreting.org/)

**Blue Horizon**

* [Continuing Education (CEUs) Medical and Court Interpreter Training Programs — Blue Horizon (interpretertraining-online.com)](https://www.interpretertraining-online.com/ceus)

**LEO (Linguist Education Online) - fee**

* [Continuing Education for ASL Interpreters - Linguist Education Online](https://linguisteducationonline.com/continuing-education-for-asl-interpreters/)

**Diversity Academy for Interpreters - fee**

* [CEUs for Interpreters (thediversityacademy.com)](https://www.thediversityacademy.com/)

**Deaf Action Center - fee**

* [Deaf Action Center](https://deafactioncenter.org/)

**ASLIS CEUs on Demand - fee**

* [CEUs On Demand | ASLIS](https://www.aslis.com/ceus-on-demand/)

**Interpretek - fee**

* [CEU for Sign Language Interpreters | ASL CEU | Interpretek](https://interpretek.com/online-focus/)

**The insightful interpreter - fee**

* [The Insightful Interpreter | Professional Development for Sign Language Interpreters](https://www.insightfulinterpreter.com/)

**Protactile Language Interpreting (Deafblind) – free**

* [Online Learning - PLI (protactilelanguageinterpreting.org)](https://www.protactilelanguageinterpreting.org/onlinelearning.html)

**Interpreter Mentoring Education and Training (IMET) – Utah State University – Educational Interpreters – fee & free**

* [Services - Interpreter Services (taese.org)](https://www.taese.org/cms/index.php/28-services/112-interpreter-services)

**National Association of Interpreters in Education- NAIE – free**

* [Home - National Association of Interpreters in Education (naiedu.org)](https://naiedu.org/)

**Masterword - fee**

* [Store - MasterWord Institute](https://masterword.institute/store/)

**Described and Captioned Media Program – free**

* [eLearning Resources (dcmp.org)](https://dcmp.org/elearning)

**National Association for the Deaf – free & fee**

* [National Deaf Center - National Deaf Center](https://nationaldeafcenter.org/)

**I CEU Central – fee**

* [ASL Sign Language Interpreter Education – iCEUCentral](https://iceucentral.myshopify.com/) (PPO courses)

**The CEU Café – fee**

* [ONLINE WORKSHOP MENU | The CEU Café (theceucafe.com)](https://www.theceucafe.com/online-workshop-menu)

**Winkshops – fee**

* [Earn CEUs — Wink (winkasl.com)](https://www.winkasl.com/earn-ceus)

**ASL Owl – fee**

* [ASL OWL Workshops — ASL OWL](https://aslowl.org/workshops)

**Conferences and miniseries**

**OKRID – Oklahoma Registry Interpreter for the Deaf – fee**

* <https://okrid.org/>

**RID regional conferences – fee and free**

* [Home - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (rid.org)](https://rid.org/)

**Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness – SERID – fee**

* [SERID – Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness](https://serid.org/)

**Zaboosh – ASL Interpreting Workshops – fee**

* [Online Workshops – Zaboosh](https://zaboosh.com/collections/frontpage)

**Oklahoma Educational Interpreter Training Institute (OEITI) – free**

* [Oklahoma School for the Deaf (osd.k12.ok.us)](https://www.osd.k12.ok.us/)

**StreetLeverage – fee**

* [StreetLeverage – Retelling the story of the sign language interpreter.](https://streetleverage.com/)