



New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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BEI Testing Process

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In 2021 the New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board put into effect a rule change to allow interpreters who hold certification from the Texas based Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) of Advanced, BEI Master, BEI IV, BEI V, BEI Level IV Intermediary, or BEI Level V Intermediary to qualify for a New Mexico Community Signed Language Interpreter License. Below is an explanation of what these exams entail. Although the Sign Language Interpreting Practices Board will accept passing results for the above exams, no BEI tests are currently offered in New Mexico. If you would like instructions on how to register for BEI exams, please see our fact sheet titled Step by Step Guide for BEI Testing Registration in the Resources for Interpreters section of our Fact Sheets page: www.cdhh.nm.gov/resources/fact-sheets.

Test of English Proficiency

Prior to taking the BEI performance exam, interpreters must take and pass the Test of English Proficiency (TEP). This test is an 80-question multiple choice assessment of a candidate's skill in reading comprehension and English grammar. You must have a minimum of 55 questions correct to pass. You can find a sample of this exam here: [Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services - BEI Program \(texas.gov\)](http://www.texas.gov/office-for-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-services-bei-program)

In order to take this exam, you must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent, have no qualifying criminal convictions, and have earned at least 30 credit hours from an accredited college/university with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

The application form can be found here: [Form 3908, Test of English Proficiency \(TEP\) \(texas.gov\)](http://www.texas.gov/form-3908-test-of-english-proficiency-tep).

BEI Performance Exams

To apply for New Mexico Interpreter licensure, hearing interpreters must hold a certificate for the BEI Advanced, BEI Master, BEI IV, or BEI V. Deaf interpreters must hold a certificate for the BEI Level IV Intermediary or BEI Level V Intermediary. The BEI IV, BEI V, and Level IV Intermediary performance exams are no longer offered to new test applicants. Before taking any of the performance exams you must take and pass the Test of English Proficiency described above, as well as hold an associate level degree or above, or have at least 60 credit hours taken with a cumulative 2.0 GPA. You can find a detailed study guide for all of the BEI exams here: [BEI Study Guide \(texas.gov\)](http://www.texas.gov/bei-study-guide).

Hearing interpreters must first take the BEI Basic exam before moving on to the BEI Advanced or BEI Master. These exams build on level of skills as an interpreter and will assess a candidate's ability to interpret between American Sign Language and English, transliterate between English and signed English, and sight translate between written English and American Sign Language. The Basic level exam will test candidates' abilities to work in straightforward interactions, such as K-12 classroom interactions, school assemblies, informational meetings, etc. The Advanced level exam will test candidates' abilities to work in high-stakes interactions, such as medical, social services, higher education, counseling, etc. The Master level will include complex scenarios such as mental health and legal interpreting.

Deaf interpreters will be required to take the Level III Intermediary exam before moving on to the Level V Intermediary exam. These exams will test a candidate's ability to provide receptive interpreting of American Sign Language to signed English, receptive transliterating of signed English to American Sign Language, and sight translation from written English to American Sign Language. There is not readily available information on what the content of the exam looks like, but there is a list of the physical, cognitive, cultural, linguistic, and professional aspects that the test raters will be looking for on pages 13 to 16 in the study guide: [BEI Study Guide \(texas.gov\)](#).