

# Interpreters and Translators & Translation as a Skill

*Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino counties)*

*This workforce demand report uses state and federal job projection data developed before the economic impact of COVID-19. The COE is monitoring the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. Please consult with local employers to understand their current employment needs.*

## Introduction

This report provides employer demand data related to the California Community College legal and community interpretation program. The training provided by this program is linked to one occupation that provides translation services as its primary job function. While this occupation typically requires a bachelor's degree to enter employment, it is considered a community college-level occupation since over one-third (36%) of incumbent workers have some college coursework or obtained a community college award the highest level of educational attainment. The occupational definition is provided below:

### **Interpreters and Translators (SOC 27-3091)**

Interpret oral or sign language, or translate written text from one language into another.

**Sample job titles:** Court Interpreter, Deaf Interpreter, Educational Interpreter, Interpreter, Medical Interpreter, Paraprofessional Interpreter, Sign Language Interpreter, Spanish Interpreter, Technical Translator, Translator

- *Entry-Level Educational Requirement: Bachelor's degree*
- *Training Requirement: None*
- *Work Experience: None*
- *Incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 36%*

The second portion of this report provides an online job advertisement analysis of community college-level, medical and legal occupations (aside from interpreters and translators) seeking bilingual (English-Spanish) skills in the workplace.

## Employment

In 2019, there were 823 interpreter and translator jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Interpreters and translators employment is projected to increase by 12%, and have 94 annual job openings to fill new or backfill jobs that workers are permanently vacating (including occupational transfers and retirements).

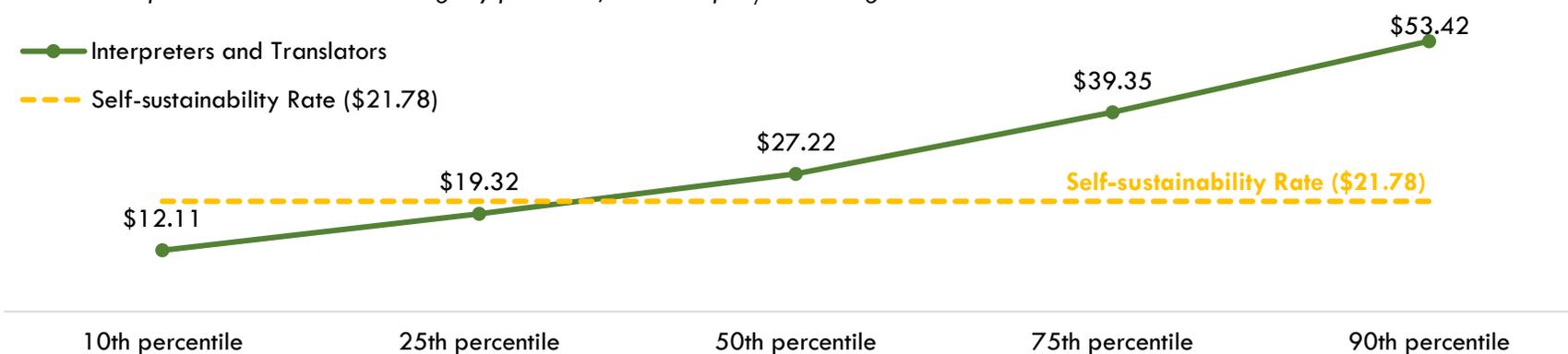
Table 1: Interpreter and translator job counts and projections, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupation	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	Change	% Change	Annual Job Openings
Interpreters and Translators	823	921	98	12%	94

## Earnings

Hourly earnings for interpreters and translators are displayed in table 2. Community colleges should ensure their training programs lead to employment opportunities that provide self-sustainable income. The University of Washington estimates that a self-sufficient hourly rate for a single adult with one school-age child is \$21.78 per hour or \$45,992 annually in Riverside County; \$21.24 per hour or \$44,867 annually in San Bernardino County (Pearce, 2020). For this study, the higher hourly earnings requirement in Riverside County is adopted as the self-sufficiency standard for the two-county region. Earnings for interpreters and translators exceed the self-sustainability rate at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, indicating that at least half of workers in the field earn a self-sustainable wage.

Table 2: Interpreter and translator earnings by percentile, Inland Empire/Desert Region



## Employer Online Job Advertisements

The sections below provide online job advertisement analytics data for interpreters and translators listed over the last 12 months, from March 2020 to February 2021. All results are for full-time positions, and staffing companies were removed from the search. In the previous twelve months, 89 unique employer advertisements were listed in the region. Table 3 displays the industries posting the most advertisements for interpreters and translators. Table 4 displays a sample of top companies posting online job ads, which reveals the name of companies that have been posting unique online job ads. Table 5 displays the top skills or qualifications included in employer job advertisements. Hard skills are specific, learnable, measurable, often industry- or occupation-specific abilities related to a position, and qualifications are certifications decided on by a third-party entity that acknowledges a body of skills and abilities.

*Table 3: Industries with the most advertisements for interpreters and translators, Inland Empire/Desert Region*

Industries	Job Ads	% of Advertisements
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	27	30%
Educational Services	11	12%
Public Administration	11	12%
Construction	10	11%
Retail Trade	9	10%
<i>All other industries</i>	21	24%
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 4: Companies posting the most advertisements for interpreters and translators, Inland Empire/Desert Region*

Companies	Job Ads
SOS International, LLC	11
Amazon.com, Inc.	8
Sorenson Communications, LLC	7
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside	5
<i>All other employers</i>	58
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>89</b>

Table 5: The skills or qualifications most frequently included in advertisements for interpreters and translators, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Skills or Qualifications	Job Ads
English Language	64
Language Interpretation	61
Communications	47
Language Translation	39
Spanish Language	29
Vocabulary	29

## Community College Program

Community college legal and community interpretation (TOP 2140.00) programs train students to provide English-foreign language interpreting and translating services to aid clients in the legal and social services systems and other governmental or community contexts (Taxonomy of Programs, 2012). Only one regional program provides legal and community interpretation training.

Table 6: 2016-19, Annual average community college awards for the legal and community interpretation programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Colleges (Local Program Title)	Annual Average Awards (2016-19)
Moreno Valley College (Community Interpretation)	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

## Translation as a Skill - Medical

A separate job ad search was conducted to determine employer demand for medical workers with bilingual (English-Spanish) skills in the healthcare and social assistance (NAICS 62) industry sector and public administration of health programs (NAICS 92312) industry. Over the last 12 months, there were 1,217 job advertisements from employers seeking bilingual, Spanish, and English skills. These results indicate demand for workers with Spanish-English translation and interpretation skills outside of the traditional interpreter and translator occupation. Table 7 displays the occupations frequently associated with bilingual (English-Spanish) skills in employer job advertisements.

Table 7: Medical occupations with the most advertisements that included bilingual (English-Spanish) skills, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupations	Job Ads	% of Advertisements
Registered Nurses	145	13%
Medical Assistants	124	12%
Medical Secretaries	95	9%
Patient Representatives	49	5%
Healthcare Social Workers	44	4%
Dental Assistants	43	4%
<i>All other occupations</i>	<i>587</i>	<i>53%</i>
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 8 displays the employers posting the most advertisements for positions that require bilingual skills. Table 9 displays the industries with the most advertisements for workers with bilingual skills.

Table 8: Medical employers posting the most advertisements for bilingual (English-Spanish) skills, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Employers	Job Ads
Western Dental Services	60
SAC Health System	32
Kaiser Permanente	32
Western Dental Orthopaedics	27
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	26
Arrowhead Orthopaedics	25
<i>All other employers</i>	<i>885</i>
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>1,087</b>

Table 9: Medial industries with the most advertisements for bilingual (English-Spanish) skills, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Industries	Job Ads	% of Advertisements
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	289	35%
Office of Dentists	142	17%
Office of Other Health Practitioners	112	14%
Office of Physicians	101	12%
Individual Family Services	67	8%
<i>All other industries</i>	376	14%
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Translation as a Skill - Legal

A separate job ad search was conducted to determine employer demand for middle-skill, legal workers with bilingual (English-Spanish) skills in the legal services (NAICS 5411) and the justice, public order, and safety activities (NAICS 9221) industry groups. Over the last 12 months, there were 38 job advertisements from employers seeking bilingual, Spanish, and English skills. These results indicate some demand for legal workers with Spanish-English translation and interpretation skills—the vast majority of results were for the paralegal and legal assistants occupation (26 online job ads). For reference, there were 237 online job ads for paralegal and legal assistants without Bilingual skills during the same timeframe. Table 10 displays the occupations frequently associated with bilingual (English-Spanish) skills in employer job advertisements.

Table 10: Legal occupations with the most advertisements that included bilingual (English-Spanish) skills, Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupations	Job Ads	% of Advertisements
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	26	68%
Office Clerks, General	4	11%
<i>All other occupations</i>	8	55%
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 11 displays the legal services industry group employers posting at least three online job advertisements for positions that require bilingual skills.

*Table 11: Legal services employers posting the most advertisements for bilingual (English-Spanish) skills, Inland Empire/Desert Region*

Employers	Job Ads
Maline Law Group	4
Law Offices of Alejo Lugo	4
Law Offices of Zulu Ali & Associates, Llp	3
All other employers	27
<b>Total advertisements</b>	<b>1,217</b>

This labor market brief provides an occupational and community college program overview and is not intended for regional program recommendation or submission to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

### Contact

Michael Goss, Center of Excellence  
 Inland Empire/Desert Region  
[michael.goss@chaffey.edu](mailto:michael.goss@chaffey.edu)  
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