Are you thinking about enrolling in the Interpreter Preparation Program at ICC? Here are some questions that prospective students frequently ask:

How long is the IPP?

The Interpreter Preparation Program (IPP) at ICC is a 2-year, 5 semester program.

When does it begin?

New students begin their IPP classes in the fall. If students wish to take General Education courses prior to beginning IPP, they can enroll any semester.

What are my choices? (Degree or Certificate)

Students can receive a Certificate of Occupational Credit (15 IPP core courses) OR an Associate of Applied Science Degree (15 IPP courses plus 7 or 8 General Education classes).

Will I get more jobs if I have the Applied Science degree in Interpreter Preparation rather than the certificate?

Education is important; however, the scores IPP graduates receive on professional certification/credentialing tests determine employment outcomes in Illinois.

Are any of the IPP classes online?

All Interpreter Preparation courses are offered in traditional classroom format; except IPP 216 (Occupational Interpreting), a 3-credit, hybrid course, that students take during fall semester of their 2nd year.

When do IPP classes meet?

First year classes (3 classes – 9 credits each semester) meet on Mon/Wed – 8:00-2:30 both semesters (Free ASL tutoring follows)

Second year-first semester - classes meet on Tues/Thurs - 9:00-4:30; a required hybrid class is taken concurrently (4 classes – 12 credits)

Summer term - between first and second year – 1 class, IPP 112 ; Tuues/Thurs – 9:00 - noon

Second year– second semester – classes meet on Tues/Thurs - 9:00 – 4:30 and an 80-hour internship is done outside of class time (4 classes – 12 credits)
Are there other requirements?

Students must complete 8 interpreter observations outside of class during the 1st year; 4 each semester.

Students are encouraged (not required) to attend events in the D/deaf – interpreting communities to improve skills and network.

Is there anything else I should consider before becoming an IPP student?

Internet access is an important tool in the IPP.

It is not necessary for students to own a computer or have internet access at home; however, if that is the case, students are expected to use ICC’s computer labs to complete web-based assignments.

Other than tuition and books, do I have to purchase other supplies to be an IPP student?

A “Student Interpreter ID Badge” - $10.00 - $15.00 – (information will be shared in class)

An access code, each semester, for use of an online assessment platform; GoREACT. Codes can be purchased online, or through the bookstore using Financial Aide.

A hand-held recording device to record performance homework – most students use their phones or tablets.

Are there interpreting jobs available after I graduate?

There is interpreting work in Central IL, but few 40 hr. per week jobs.

There is more work in metropolitan areas with larger D/deaf and hard of hearing populations.

Nationally, there is still a shortage of qualified interpreters.

Why do I have to take a professional test when I graduate?

Two different laws regulate professional interpreting in Illinois. An IPP student who wants to work as an interpreter after graduation must develop the skill level to pass a professional test.

Will I be able to get a fulltime interpreting job when I graduate?

There is interpreting work in Central IL, but few fulltime jobs. Most IPP graduates begin interpreting careers in K – 12 educational settings in fulltime, substitute, or independent contractor positions.

There is more work in metropolitan areas with larger D/deaf and hard of hearing populations.
What types of interpreting jobs are available to interpreters with the required certification and license?

Some of the many employment settings:
- Pre-School to Post-Graduate educational settings
- Medical and mental health environments
- Legal system settings: police stations, lawyers offices, and courtrooms
- Social service agencies
- Religious settings
- Video Relay service centers

How does an IPP student develop the appropriate skills to pass a professional certification test?

IPP is a college-level program and homework, in-class assignments, projects, tests, and other requirements are required.

Some students acquire a 2nd language more easily than others.

Students are expected to arrange their lives so they can be in class most days. It is important to consider the difference between “emergency” and “problem,” and how that may affect attendance. Excessive absences are the primary cause of failure in the IPP.

I want to learn ASL, but I don’t want to be an interpreter. What can I do with an IPP education?

There are fields of study in which American Sign Language interpreting skills may be helpful, including:
- Deaf Education
- Special Education
- Speech Pathology
- Audiology
- Day-Care provider for special needs children
- Teacher’s Aide in Special Education settings
- Deaf-Blind services
- Human Services: Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, Social Work, etc.

Most of these require further education after IPP

I don’t want the whole IPP; can I just take the ASL classes?

IPP 110, 111, 112, 210, and 211 (ASL I – 5) are reserved for students enrolled in the full program. However, ASL 110 and 111 are offered under the Humanities Department for foreign language transfer credit.
I already know some Sign Language; can I test out of some of the IPP ASL classes?

Currently there is not a standardized system in place to test out of IPP classes.

IPP classes offer so much more than just ASL vocabulary development. They are also designed to teach: expressive and receptive interpreting skills the dynamics of Deaf culture and community, and prepare the student for professional certification and/or credentialing tests. It is imperative that students receive the content offered in each class.

Are there pre-requisites for the IPP?

There are no Sign Language pre-requisites; however, incoming students must meet the following English requirement:

- 81 or higher on the COMPASS Reading Test, OR
- 18 or higher on the reading portion of the ACT, OR
- Completion of ENGL 095, ENGL 099, ENGL 105, or ENGL 110 with a grade of “C” or better, OR
- An earned associate’s or bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited college or university

How do I apply for the IPP?

1. Upon deciding that IPP is the correct choice for you, please contact Sue Sanders at 309-694-8287; susan.sanders@icc.edu; Jamie Charlton at 309-694-5342; Jamie.Charlton@icc.edu; or, Jennifer Swartout, PhD; 694-8984; Jennifer.Swartout@icc.edu; to receive an IPP Application.

2. Submit them to Sue Sanders at: Sue Sanders; IPP Coordinator – Illinois Central College – 1 College Drive – East Peoria, IL – 61635 or via email

3. Be sure you have applied to become a student at ICC.

4. IPP applications will be processed in the order that they are received.

Is there anything else I should know before I apply to the IPP?

1. Because some of the clinical observations and internships are done in K – 12 settings, each incoming IPP student must obtain a current background check after they enter the program. These may be between $30.00 - $50.00

2. Mandatory Orientation for new IPP students will take place on Thursday, August 3rd, 2017 at the East Peoria campus; Classroom #228 B
Any questions? Contact Sue Sanders at (309) 694-8287 or susan.sanders@icc.edu