



**American Alliance of Professional
Translators and Interpreters**
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The Licensing and Oversight Board Questions and Answers

Q: What is licensing for professional translators and interpreters?

A: Licensing is a process by which translators and interpreters can obtain official recognition of their qualifications and expertise. In some cases, this may involve passing an exam or meeting other criteria set by a regulatory body.

Q: What is an oversight board for translators and interpreters?

A: An oversight board is a regulatory body that oversees the licensing and practice of translators and interpreters. It is responsible for setting licensing requirements, administering exams, if necessary, and enforcing standards of practice.

Q: Why would translators and interpreters want to become licensed?

A: There are several potential benefits to becoming a licensed translator or interpreter. A license is a legally recognized credential that allows for T & I to work in their respective field. It also provides another level of legitimacy and credibility that attracts clients and secure work. In addition, a license will be required in order to work in certain settings, such as legal or medical settings.

Q: What are some potential benefits of having an oversight board for translators and interpreters?

A: An oversight board will provide quality assurance to clients and employers, ensuring that only qualified and competent translators and interpreters are working in the field. It can also establish, uphold, and enforce ethical standards of practice, which can help to maintain the reputation of the profession and will demand greater accountability from licensees.

Q: Are there any potential drawbacks to licensing and oversight for translators and interpreters?

A: Some individuals and organizations may contend that licensing and oversight create unnecessary barriers to entry for translators and interpreters, or that the requirements are too



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rigid. In addition, some may argue that oversight bodies may not be effective in enforcing standards or may be subject to political influence. However, proponents of licensing and oversight believe that these potential drawbacks can be mitigated through careful design and implementation of the rules in the formation of this regulatory body. Consideration must be given to language diversity, access to education, cost, and the possibility of different levels and opportunities for additional skills.

A: Can a licensing board accept other credentials or certifications?

Yes, a licensing board may accept other credentials or certifications when evaluating an applicant's qualifications for licensure. Many licensing boards will consider a variety of factors when evaluating an applicant, such as education, work experience, and relevant certifications or credentials.

For example, a licensing board may accept certification from a professional organization such as the American Translators Association (ATA) or the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) as evidence of a translator's or interpreter's qualifications. Similarly, a licensing board may accept completion of a specific training program, a degree in translation or interpretation, or passing a specific language proficiency test as meeting its licensing requirements.

It's important to note that the specific requirements for licensure may vary depending on the jurisdiction and the specific regulatory body involved. Therefore, it's important for translators and interpreters to research the requirements in their area and to understand what credentials or certifications may be accepted as evidence of their qualifications.