

DSDHH

DIVISION OF SERVICES OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



Dear Utah Interpreting Community,

Previously, we announced that the Utah Interpreter Program (UIP) would be implementing a Detailed Results Report. We know that it has been a concern in the past that candidates taking the exam would be left wondering what they may need to do to pass the certification test. The Detailed Results Report will provide testing candidates with information regarding their performance on the exam. With much excitement, we now have an example (included below) that we would like to share.

Background

First, offering some form of exam feedback has been something that UIP has wanted to provide to testing candidates for years, but previous exam formats and system limitations prevented this from happening. In 2016 when the Certification Examination Committee (CEC, a subcommittee of the Interpretation Certification Board) began the development of the new UIP exams, being able to provide feedback was part of the discussion from the onset.

To make providing feedback feasible, the CEC and UIP needed to have an automated system to provide results for every candidate and each test performed. To do this, UIP is collaborating with other state department experts in data and analysis. This system is still in the development stage, and our goal is that these reports will be distributed along with exam results sometime in 2021.

Format

The Detailed Results Report includes the UIP exam published criteria (available to the public on our website) along with a rubric including four skill ranking levels which utilize four colors for visual clarity. The skill ranking levels are: P (proficient) in green, C (competent) in yellow, E (emerging) in orange, and I (insufficient) in red. When a candidate receives the Detailed Results Report they will see a skill ranking indicated in the rubric for each criteria area per exam component.

Scoring Framework

During the early work leading up to the implementation of the new UIP exams, UIP and the CEC completed a comprehensive review of the testing process by conducting a job/task analysis and reviewing published literature to determine functional aspects and establish a strong foundation for the new exams. Upon completion of this review, a new exam format was created to accomplish the goal of

providing the best exam possible. One important aspect that was revised from the previous exam format is the scoring mechanism.

In previous exams, a component pass or fail was determined by a composite score, meaning that each of the criteria was weighted at various amounts, and the rating scores for each candidate were adjusted accordingly to establish a total score which determined whether or not the candidate met the overall threshold to pass the exam. Consequently, some criteria, which were weighted more heavily, had a larger impact whereas other criteria had minimal impact on the final results. This approach to scoring was effective with the old exam format.

However, upon review, UIP/CEC decided a different scoring mechanism would better suit the new format. With this new approach, a minimum standard is set for each criteria area determined to be a key skill for interpreters at that level. If a criteria area was determined not to be a key skill, it was left off the criteria list for that component/exam. Each criteria area is measured according to its own individual standard. Candidates need to meet the standard for all criteria in order to pass the exam and receive certification. The Detailed Results Report employs this criteria standard to indicate how the candidate performed in each criteria area according to the following definitions:

Rubric Definition Key

P (Proficient)	The criteria standard was consistently demonstrated throughout the interpretation. Minor errors may have been present but did not impede the overall message.
C (Competent)	The criteria standard was generally demonstrated throughout the interpretation. Some errors were present and may have had some impact but the overall message was retained.
E (Emerging)	The criteria standard was inconsistently demonstrated throughout the interpretation. Significant errors were present that impeded the overall message.
I (Insufficient)	The criteria standard was insufficiently demonstrated throughout the interpretation. Severe errors were present that impeded the overall message.

Also included are some frequently asked questions and answers at the end of this document. Should you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Trenton Marsh at tmarsh@utah.gov.

We are looking forward to being able to provide this tool to our interpreting community!

Best regards,

The UIP team

Sample Detailed Results Report

Note, for the purposes of providing a sample, we have included one component (Utah Novice level: ASL to English Interactive). An actual Detailed Results Report would include an overview and the detailed results for each of the components for that exam.

ASL to English Interactive

Did not meet component standard

Criteria	Description	I	E	C	P
Processing	The interpreter consistently demonstrates the ability to receive, process, and deliver information while effectively managing the flow of information.			◆	
Presence	Demeanor and appearance consistently reflect professional standards.				◆
Speaker and setting	The interpretation consistently conveys the intent, affect, and register that matches the setting and speaker's delivery style.			◆	
Semantics	The interpretation consistently includes equivalent semantic choices that adhere to native usage of ASL and English in the given context.		◆		
Coherence	The interpretation consistently includes equivalent temporal markers, pronouns, and spatial referencing.			◆	
	The interpretation consistently includes equivalent transitions, topic shifts, and relational discourse markers.			◆	
Interactive elements	Interactive cues consistently follow the norms and native usage of English and allow for a natural flow of communication.				◆
	Interactive cues consistently follow the norms and native usage of ASL and allow for a natural flow of communication.				◆
Delivery and comprehension	The spoken interpretation is easy to comprehend and follow the norms and native usage of spoken English.			◆	
	The signed interpretation is easy to comprehend and follows the norms and native usage of ASL.				◆
Equivalency	The content of the ASL to English interpretation is equivalent.		◆		
	The content of the English to ASL interpretation is equivalent.				◆

Frequently Asked Questions

How many insufficient (red) or emerging (orange) skill rankings can I receive and still pass the exam?

Zero. An insufficient (red) or emerging (orange) skill ranking indicates that the candidate did not meet the standard set for that criteria area at the level they are testing. We would encourage the candidate to seek out professional development opportunities that focus on any criteria areas that were scored below a proficient (green) skill level ranking.

--

It says I need to be given a “competent” or “proficient” skill ranking for all the criteria to pass the exam. Does that mean I need to score 100% to become certified?

No, there is a range built into the UIP skill ranking levels. As is indicated in the skill ranking rubric definition key, both the competent (yellow) and proficient (green) skill level rankings allow for errors in the interpretation while still passing the criteria.

--

Why are some of my scores lower than the last time I tested?

The UIP exams are a snapshot of how a candidate performs during the exam attempt and may not be indicative of patterns and performance across a wider range of interpreting work. Many factors may impact an interpreter’s performance at any given time. Some of these are setting/topic, participant language/communication styles, and intrapersonal demands. Also, an interpreter may have developed some skills in a particular criteria area, but may not be able to consistently demonstrate them.

--

I passed my exam so I don’t need to worry about trying to improve my skills, right?

Congratulations on passing! This means you have met the minimum standard for each of the exam criteria. However, UIP believes that all interpreters, whether new to the field or seasoned veterans, should continually work on improving and broadening their skills as a part of ongoing professional development. We would encourage you to review your Detailed Results Report and hope it will give you a good place to start.