

## Degree Requirements Q & A

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the upcoming degree requirements.

Q. I passed the written test and have five years to pass the performance test. As a candidate for certification, do I still need an associate's degree after 2008 to take the test?

A. After June 30, 2008, you will need to have the minimum of an associate's degree in order to take a performance test. If you are already certified at that time, the requirement will only apply to you if you want to take additional performance tests.

Q. If an interpreter already has NIC certification at the certified or advanced level before 2008, will he or she still need an associate's degree in order to retest for a higher level?

A. A candidate must meet all eligibility requirements at the time he or she takes an exam. Yes, the candidate will still need to have an associate's degree after June 30, 2008, to sit for additional performance tests.

Q. What is the latest I could take the written test and avoid the bachelor's degree requirement? Do I have five full years to attain certification?

A. The bachelor's degree requirement goes into effect June 30, 2012. You will not need a degree to take the written test, but you will need a degree to take a performance exam.

When a candidate takes a performance test, he or she must meet all eligibility requirements. In other words, after June 30, 2008, in order to take a performance test a candidate must still be on his or her five-year timeline and have the minimum of an associate's degree. After June 30, 2012, a candidate must still be on his or her five-year timeline and have the minimum of a bachelor's degree. Certified interpreters will need to meet the educational requirements in order to take additional performance exams.

Q. I am already a CI and CT. Do I still need to have an associate's degree in order to take further tests, such as the NIC Interview and Performance test?

A. Yes, in order to take further performance exams you will need to have the minimum of an associate's degree after June 30, 2008.

Q. I am already certified. I heard there would be grandfathering for the degree requirements. Am I exempt from the requirements? Is there a substitute to holding a degree?

A. If you are already certified, you will not need to have a degree in order to maintain your certification. You will need to have a degree if you want to take further performance exams.

There will be alternatives to holding a degree. The Certification Council recommended equivalent alternatives in lieu of the educational requirements that the RID Board of Directors approved. These are:

- life experience: a portfolio assessment would be prepared by an accredited college or university;
- years of professional experience: (a) national certification would be considered; and (b) a portfolio assessment would be prepared by an accredited college or university;
- years of education: a person would need at least 60 college credits in defined categories below to be equivalent to an associate's degree and 120 credits for a bachelor's degree.

Categories of credit for equivalencies (Nine credits must be completed in each category. Fifteen credits can be completed in any area of study):

English-English Literature, English Composition, etc.

Social Sciences- Psychology, Sociology, etc.

Math/Sciences-Algebra, Basic Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, etc.

Language arts- ASL, Spanish, etc Liberal Art- Art appreciation, Music appreciation, etc.

*\*Categories listed above were obtained by The Council for Higher Education Accreditation.*