

Teaching interpreting online

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Resumen:

The demand for quality community interpreting training is growing in our increasingly multicultural Western societies. However, many who need the education cannot make time available when the trainings are scheduled. To meet this demand, the Translation Center at the University of Massachusetts offers an online course on Medical Interpreting through the Division of Continuing Education. The course is available to students located in different parts of the United States and overseas working with diverse language combinations. Our first two courses have been remarkably successful, overcoming the potential technological problems and the challenge of teaching such an eminently oral and practical skill through a nonverbal medium. In this presentation, the author introduces the course, reflects on his experience of teaching interpreting online, and provides tips for successful e-learning training. Based on student feedback from anonymous questionnaires, a case is made for e-learning as an effective educational system that offers flexibility, independence, and productivity for both the instructors and the students.