



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

Contact: Heather Trusty htrusty@rid.org

RID Announces Degree Requirement Extension for Hearing Candidates for Certification

One Year Extension for Associate's Degree Requirement to June 30, 2009

March 31, 2008 – Alexandria, VA – The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) announced today it will be extending the deadline requiring an associate's degree for hearing candidates for certification from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The one year extension will enable the national office to ensure that the proper procedures are in place to handle and assess alternative pathway requests. (i.e., equivalent alternative criteria allowable in lieu of the educational requirements)

“As we faced the impending deadline for the June 30, 2008 degree requirements, it became evident that more time was needed for the national office to provide potential candidates for certification the necessary information and guidance they need to seek alternative pathways to the degree requirement,” explained Clay Nettles, RID Executive Director.

Heather Trusty, Director of Certification who recently joined the national office in November 2007, added, *“There are interpreters in the field with decades of experience who do not have an associate's or bachelor's degree. Yet, these lifetime experiences may be deemed equivalent or beyond equivalent to an educational degree. We don't want to penalize these individuals by not having the alternative pathway clearly defined, which is why we sought, and were granted, an extension by the board of directors.”*

A degree is not required for the written/knowledge portion of the tests. However, individuals will be required to possess a degree in order to apply and take any interview/performance sections of any test. **This extension will not impact the future deadlines established in the approved motion. (see below)**

History:

At the 2003 RID National Conference, in Chicago, IL, the membership passed a motion which established the degree requirements.

The following is the text of the motion (C 2003.05) as approved at conference:

RID adopt and publicize the following schedule for when all test candidates must have a degree from an accredited institution to stand for any RID certificate:

Effective June 30, 2008, candidates for RID certification must have a minimum of an associate's degree. Effective June 30, 2012, Deaf candidates must have a minimum of an associate's degree.

Effective June 30, 2012, candidates for RID certification must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Effective June 30, 2016, Deaf candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

By June 30, 2006, the Certification Council shall establish equivalent alternative criteria allowable in lieu of the educational requirements such as one or more of the following: Life experience, years of professional experience, years of education (credit hours) not totaling a formal degree.

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333 Commerce St., Alexandria, VA 22314 ■ 703.838.0030 V ■ 703.838.0459 TTY ■ 703.838.0454 Fax ■ www.rid.org



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FAQs Pertaining to the 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 2009 to take the test?

A. After June 30, 2009, 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 2009, 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, 2009, 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, 2009, 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 already hold CI and CT certifications. 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, 2009.

Q. I am already certified. I heard there would be grandfathering for the degree requirements. Am I exempt from the requirements?

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.

Q. Is there a substitute to holding a degree?

A. A substitute to holding a degree will be defined and clearly outlined in the alternative pathways that the national office will be researching and providing to individuals. Information regarding the alternative pathways will be released in the near future.