

INFORMATION REPORTING TECHNOLOGY-JUDICIAL

Associate of Applied Science • Certificate of Proficiency



The Information Reporting Technology (IRT)– Judicial program at St. Louis Community College prepares students for careers in official court reporting and freelance court reporting. Students may pursue a 67-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science degree or a 50-credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency.

Students in the program learn machine shorthand theory and become highly skilled real-time reporters, using computer-aided transcription (CAT) software. This skill is used by court reporters to capture the words spoken by participants during a court or deposition proceeding. Court reporters then prepare verbatim transcripts of those proceedings. Transcripts provide an accurate record of a case and help safeguard the legal process.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The IRT – Judicial program at STLCC focuses on the mastery of machine shorthand using real-time translation. In addition, students take classes in legal and medical terminology, editing, computers and judicial procedures.

Students should be committed to year-round enrollment, including the summer term. They begin the program by taking two semesters of machine shorthand theory. In the third semester, speed-building classes begin, where progress is dependent on the quantity and quality of practice on the steno machine. Students need to practice a minimum of 10 hours each week. For faster speed-building, 20 hours per week is recommended.

Most students find it necessary to repeat speed classes in order to achieve the testing requirements. The national average for completion of a court reporting program is 33 months.

Students complete a 50-hour internship with a certified court reporter, arranged by the college. This internship enhances their education with on-the-job experience.

To graduate from the STLCC-IRT program, students must pass five-minute timings with 97 percent accuracy in the following categories:

- Literary (180 wpm)
- Jury Charge (200 wpm)
- Q/A Medical Testimony (200 wpm)
- Q/A Testimony (225 wpm)

A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE

The IRT program at STLCC is certified by the National Association of Court Reporters. The entire program is offered online and is one of the few fully certified programs in the country. Some night classes are also available. Practice dictation is available around the clock for student convenience. Monthly forums also allow students to network with professional court reporters.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS FIELD

About 27% of court reporters work in court positions. Others may work as freelance reporters, hired by attorneys for depositions. Skilled real-time reporters also pursue careers as broadcast captioners, providing real-time TV captions; CART reporters, aiding deaf and hearing-impaired clients; and webcast captioners, providing real-time captions for business and corporate clients, often via the Internet.

LICENSURE

State and/or national certification is required to be employed as a judicial court reporter. Licensure requirements vary by state.

JOB OUTLOOK

According to the 2010-11 Bureau of Labor Statistics, court reporting job opportunities are expected to increase by 18 percent from 2008-2018, faster than average for all occupations. This will be especially true for reporters with real-time skills.

SALARY INFORMATION

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the starting salary for a court reporter in Missouri to be \$49,310. Starting salaries in other states and in freelance positions vary.

TUITION

Currently, district residents usually pay \$83 per credit hour. See www.stlcc.edu/Fees for out-of-district tuition rates. Additional costs usually include the purchase of a steno machine and CAT software.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Patricia L. Ziegler, Ed.D.

Asst. Professor/IRT Program Coordinator
pziegler7@stlcc.edu
314-984-7433

YOU CAN EARN THIS DEGREE or CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY AT:

 **Meramec**

You may take general education classes toward this degree at any of our campuses or education centers.



Expanding Minds • Changing Lives