

NIC Performance Criteria

The following scales are evaluated by raters to score the Performance portion of the NIC exam.

Articulation refers to the production quality of signing and the production quality of speech that is displayed during the interpretation.

Affect measures the extent to which the interpretation accurately conveys the speaker's affect. Affect is the emotive tone used by the speaker and is demonstrated by the speaker's use of intonation, rhythm and stress, sign size, and non-manual behaviors.

Grammatical Structure measures the degree to which the information in an interpretation is grammatically acceptable in the language choice made.

Intent measures the extent to which the goal(s) of the source language is represented in the target language. It includes message equivalence and neutrality of the interpretation.

Content measures the accurate and consistent interpretation of equivalent information from the source language to the target language. Effective conveyance of information is dependent upon information being conveyed in context.

Constructed Action/Dialogue is the identification of who is acting and their actions or who is speaking and their speech. In ASL, this is commonly done through the use of body shifting, eye gaze, facial expressions, sign size and style, head movement and body postures and pauses. In English, this is commonly done through the use of vocal inflection and other modulations, such as speed, style, volume and pausing.

Language Match is influenced by the consumer and includes lexical preferences. In the case of multiple consumers of the same language, the language match may also be influenced by multiple lexical and grammatical preferences of the consumers.

Use of Space is a general category of devices that are used to demonstrate physical and/or grammatical relationships. These devices are frequently influenced by the actual surroundings or through the manipulation of imaginary items in the signer's environment. Examples of use of space in sign language include: pointing for pronominal reference, movement of the verb to identify the subject and object, and various uses of classifiers. Also included in this category is the use of various strategies for listing items and the possible subsequent comparison or grouping of those items.