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IRIS
Improving Rural Interpreter Skills

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APP Orientation

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Overview & Objectives

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Overview: This module will re-introduce navigating the Canvas learning management system, provide an overview of the RID Alternative Pathway Program (APP), and outline the IRIS stepwise approach to completing the APP.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Upon Completion of this module participants will be able to:

1. Recall the navigational tools within Canvas.
2. Identify gaps in current understanding of the APP.
3. Explain how one will organize documentation during the APP process.

Before moving forward . . .

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A refresh: Canvas, GoReact and UNC Resources

These next few pages are a refresher on the online technology and tools we use here in the IRIS Project. This will likely be a refresher, as you saw this same information during the orientation of the CORE modules at the beginning of your IRIS journey.

As a more experienced user of these tools, however, it is likely you will see something new or see a more streamlined way of navigating Canvas, GoReact, and UNC resources that are available to you.

Note: Please log into Canvas to see these tools and resources.

Introduction

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The journey to national certification poses challenges for many reasons, especially for interpreters in rural areas. The absence of formalized interpreter education in rural regions and gaps in organizational support are significant issues.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) recognizes these challenges and has collaborated with IRIS to provide the Alternative Pathway Program (APP) via the IRIS Project. Together we aim to address this gap by providing a supportive IRIS-based environment that offers an alternative pathway toward national certification.

You are in this program as you are eligible for participation in the RID Alternative Pathway toward RID Certification. The eligibility to be in the IRIS: APP Program applies to individuals who: (1) work as interpreters, (2) are not RID certified, and (3) do not have a bachelor's degree, a requirement by RID to take the CASLI Generalist Performance exam for national certification.

The big picture . . . (Part I)

To obtain RID certification one must;

1. satisfy CASLI's eligibility to test requirements,
2. satisfy RID's educational requirement and,
3. pass the Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI) Generalist Knowledge and Generalist Performance interpreting exams.

CASLI is the organization that develops and administers interpreting exams. Once you have passed the Generalist Knowledge and Generalist Performance exams you are on your way towards RID national certification.

To maintain RID certification one must;

1. be a current certified member of RID,
2. maintain the required Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and,
3. adhere their interpreting practice to the Code of Professional Conduct.

# The big picture . . . (Part II)

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Here in this program, we will work together to kickstart your process of becoming an RID certified interpreter. These next few pages will introduce you to what the Alternative Pathway Program is and what it is you will need to do to successfully complete this phase of your certification journey.
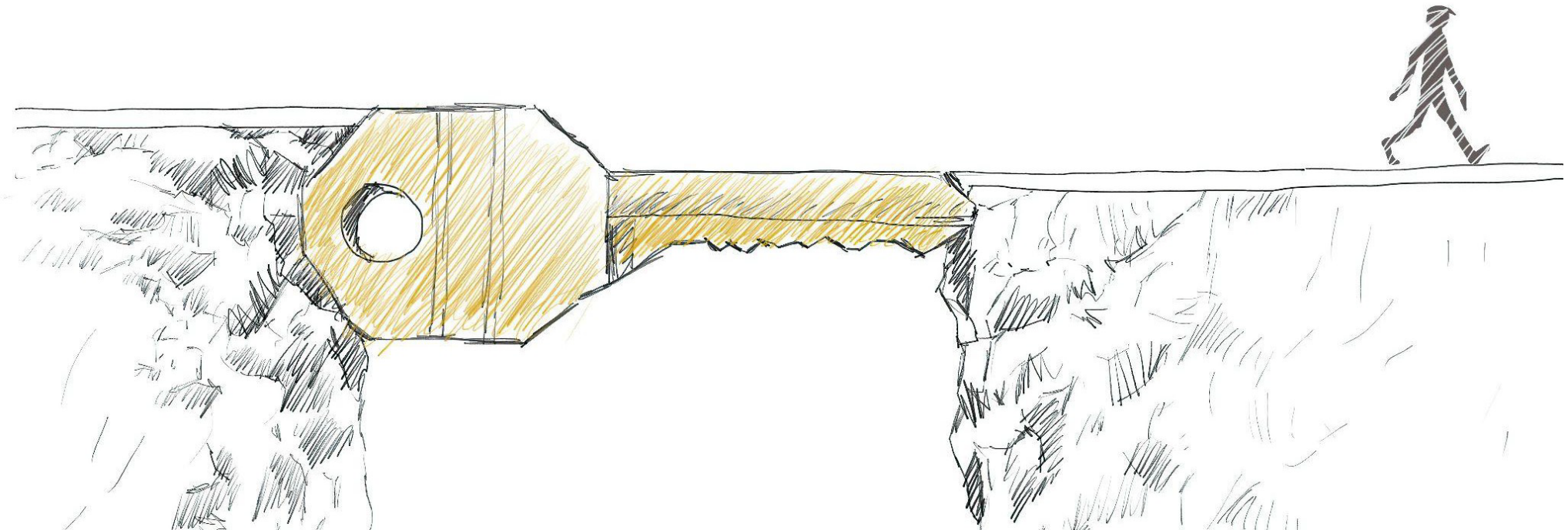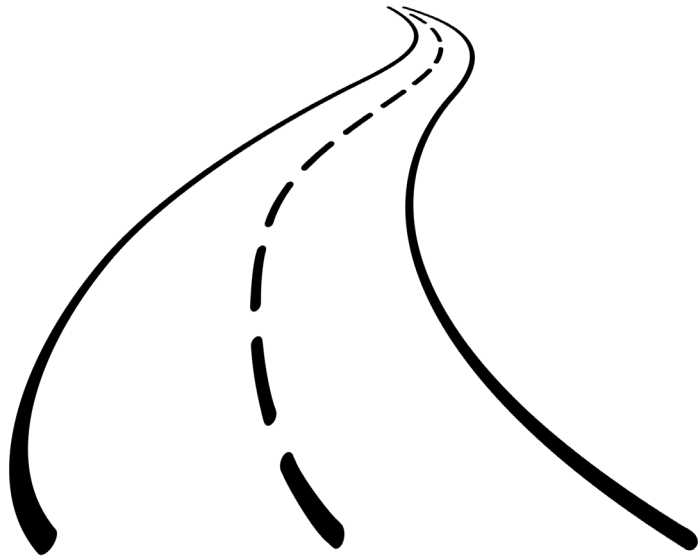
What is the Alternative Pathway Program (APP)?

Starting in 2021 all candidates for RID certification are required to have a bachelor's degree in order to take the CASLI Generalist Performance exam. The RID Alternative Pathway Program (APP) is a secondary way interpreters can verify their educational and work experiences without a bachelor's degree. This program requires applicants to provide verification of up to three things; (1) completed college coursework, (2) work experience, and (3) professional development. After collecting the required documents APP applicants need to complete an Educational Equivalency Application and submit all verification. In order to achieve APP approval one must demonstrate a total of **120 experience credits**.

![IRIS logo]

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Completed Coursework

What do you need?

Official transcript(s) of college classes.

+

Work Experiences

What do you need?

Verification letters of interpreting work.

+

Professional Development

What do you need?

Documentation of interpreter related training.

Alternative Pathway Program

What do you need?

120 experience credits (total)

What is the Educational Equivalency Application?

The Educational Equivalency Application is the form you will submit to RID at the end of the IRIS APP process to summarize all of your work and educational experiences. A copy of this form can be found on the RID website.

You may want to download this application now and fill it out as you progress through this program. Together we will be going through each portion of the application module by module. You will submit a completed application to RID by Module 4.

FAQ, Part I

Is it possible that I do not have the required 120 experience credits?

It is possible, yes. However, this program will support you through the process of obtaining all the needed documentation and guidance on how to submit the Educational Equivalency Application. Once you have earned more experience credits, after this program is over, you will be ready to submit your application.

Will this IRIS APP program focus on exam preparation?

No. This program focuses on completing the APP *only*. IRIS has partnered with the CATIE Center's [Dive In program](#) that focuses on exam preparation for Deaf, Coda, and hearing interpreters. IRIS participants will have access to their content at no cost. This will be covered in greater detail in Module 5: *Next Steps*.

FAQ, Part II

What costs of the APP are covered by IRIS?

1. IRIS-based support, guidance, content and access to the University of Northern Colorado's Canvas, GoReact, and Microsoft 365 (approximate value $1,000).

2. The Alternative Pathway application fee ($50).

What costs of the APP are not covered by IRIS?

Module 1: *Identifying Completed Coursework* will guide you through obtaining any college transcripts you have to apply towards the RID Educational Equivalency Application. If your institution(s) of higher learning charges a fee (usually between $1-$20) to obtain these transcripts you will be responsible for paying for these fees on your own.

Do I have to be a member of RID to submit my application?

No.

Is it true I can take the CASLI Generalist Knowledge exam now?

Yes. The CASLI Generalist Knowledge exam does not require a bachelor's degree or APP approval. Only the CASLI Generalist Performance exam requires a bachelor's degree or APP approval.

If my Educational Equivalency Application shows 120 experience credits and I am approved by RID then what?

You will be eligible for the CASLI Generalist Performance exam.

I know IRIS will be leading us through this process step by step, however, where can I see more information about the APP from RID?

This can be found on the Alternative Pathway Program page on RID's website.

Discussion: Further questions?

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NOTE: You have to log into Canvas to complete this assignment

Based on what you know of the APP so far what further questions do you have? If you notice a question from a colleague that you can answer, do that by replying to them on this thread.
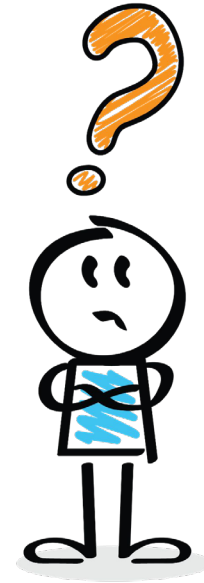
Planning your Time

Participating in this program will require approximately **10 hours per week**. This includes asynchronous engagement with your Community of Learning (COL) on Canvas, attending COL based synchronous sessions, *and* independent work.

You will need to stay in pace with the schedule of the program, due dates, and your COL. The flow of this program is designed to promote a continuous momentum of progress.

And, life happens. If you run into extenuating circumstances where you need extra time, communicate with your facilitator early and often.

Getting Organized, Part I

The majority of this program will be supporting you in ways to obtain the documentation needed for the APP process. To do this you will need a system that allows you to organize and save this documentation easily. All documents submitted to RID at the end of this program *must be* electronic and submitted all together. RID will *not accept* hard copy submissions.

Exactly how you organize your documents will be up to you however, you will need to establish this now as you will begin collecting documents starting in Module 1.

If you don't already have a system that works for you (i.e. Google Drive, or your filing system on your computing device), the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) provides you free access to Microsoft Office 365. Via Office 365 you have access to a cloud-based system to file and store the documents you collect during the APP program. To log into your UNC Office 365 account visit the student section of the Information & Management Technology page on UNC's website.

Getting Organized, Part II

An example of how you might organize your electronic filing system:

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified ▼	File size	
📁 Completed Coursework	irisproject@unco.edu	8:09 AM irisproject@unco.e...	—	
📁 Professional Development	irisproject@unco.edu	8:09 AM irisproject@unco.e...	—	
📁 Work Experiences	irisproject@unco.edu	8:08 AM irisproject@unco.e...	—	

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Discussion: Getting organized

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NOTE: You have to log into Canvas to complete this assignment

Illustrate how are you staying organized in the APP process. You can respond to this post by typing your response in English, submitting a video in ASL, or uploading screenshots of your electronic filing system.

Synchronous Session

This module **requires your attendance** at a synchronous session. Your facilitator will share the exact details of the date and time of this session.

References

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (n.d.) *Alternative pathway program.* Retrieved March 29, 2024, from

https://rid.org/certification/alternative-pathway-program/

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