

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Answers Related to Credential Cycles

Q. The Michigan Certified Interpreter Policies and Procedures use the terms “Michigan certification” and “credentials.” Do these terms mean the same thing?

A: No, for the purposes of keeping track of when payments and required documentation are due, the Policies and Procedures differentiate between an interpreter’s annual Michigan certification renewal date and an interpreter’s four year Michigan credential cycle. The Division grants Michigan certification to interpreters, which broadly indicate the practice settings in which an interpreter is currently qualified to work in the state of Michigan. A credential is the specific qualifications the interpreter has obtained in order to be able to interpret in particular settings. Credentials must be earned by meeting minimum requirements initially and within every four year Michigan credential cycle thereafter. Certification is an annual confirmation that an interpreter currently has the required credentials (including Michigan Endorsements) necessary to practice in specific Standard Practice Levels.

Applying for Michigan certification is required every year. The **annual Michigan certification renewal fee is \$30, no matter how many or what type of credentials an interpreter holds.**

However, effective July 7, 2016, at the end of each four year Michigan credential cycle, an interpreter cannot merely renew existing Michigan certification(s), but must also establish that they meet all (CEU and other) requirements for maintaining the credentials which make them eligible for continued certification at their existing Standard Level, and with their existing Endorsements.

Thus, in addition to the \$30 annual Michigan certification renewal fee, during the fourth year of every four year Michigan credential cycle, interpreters must pay applicable Endorsement fees, and submit all required CEUs.

Q: What is the difference between a four year Michigan credential cycle and the cycle I currently have as a national credentialed interpreter with RID and how will this impact the CEUs I submit for my Michigan certification?

A: There will be no impact. All national credentialed interpreters must continue to annually renew Michigan certification by paying the \$30 annual renewal fee and submit RID membership card with valid expiration date and/or RID CMP receipt for RID issued credentials. However, if a national credentialed interpreter who does not hold any state issued credentials decides to apply for a Michigan Endorsement, after obtaining the Endorsement, the interpreter’s four year Michigan credential cycle for that applicable endorsement will align with the annual Michigan certification renewal date.

Q: What happens if I only have a state (Michigan-BEI based) credential?

A: Effective July 7, 2016, as a state certified interpreter, the annual 2.0 CEU (20 hours) requirement to maintain Michigan certification does not change. For annual Michigan certification renewal, interpreters must continue to submit 2.0 CEUs (20 hours) **every year**.

However, starting July 7, 2016, all state certified interpreters must have earned 8.0 CEUs (80 hours) to maintain Michigan certification during each four year Michigan credential cycle. Interpreters are not required to earn or submit all 8.0 CEUs (80 hours) in the same year.

These 8.0 CEUs (80 hours) must include all of the following earned during each four year Michigan credential cycle:

- 5.0 Professional Studies CEUs (50 hours),
- 2.0 Ethics CEUs (20 hours), and
- 1.0 General Studies CEUs (10 hours).

The four year Michigan credential cycle for all Michigan certified interpreters with BEI credentials and other state issued credentials will begin on the date of their annual Michigan certification renewal in 2016.

Michigan BEI II and BEI III certified interpreters have two options for submitting the required CEUs during their four year Michigan credential cycle: 2.0 CEUs (20 hours) annually or 4.0 CEUs (40 hours) every other year.

*Example: Interpreter A initially applied for Michigan certification of their **BEI I** credential on December 1, 2014. Interpreter A's annual Michigan certification renewal date is December 1 every year. Interpreter A's four year Michigan credential cycle is from December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2020. Interpreter A will submit 2.0 CEUs (20 hours) every year. However, when Interpreter A submits the annual Michigan certification renewal at the end of the four year Michigan credential cycle in 2020, Interpreter A must have earned 8.0 CEUs (80 hours) from December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2020 broken down as 5.0 Professional Studies CEUs (50 hours), 2.0 Ethics CEUs (20 hours), and 1.0 General Studies CEUs (10 hours).*

*Example: Interpreter B initially applied for Michigan certification of their **BEI II** credential on January 30, 2012. Interpreter B's annual Michigan certification renewal date is January 30. Interpreter B's four year Michigan credential cycle is from January 30, 2016 to January 29, 2020. Interpreter B has the option to choose either annual or biannual CEU submission. However, when Interpreter B submits the annual Michigan certification renewal at the end of the four year Michigan credential cycle in 2020, Interpreter B must have earned 8.0 CEUs (80 hours) from January 30, 2016 to January 29, 2020 broken down as 5.0 Professional Studies CEUs (50 hours), 2.0 Ethics CEUs (20 hours), and 1.0 General Studies CEUs (10 hours). **Note** that, because Interpreter B has a BEI II credential, they must choose one of two options for submitting the CEUs required during their four year Michigan credential cycle: 2.0 CEUs (20 hours) annually OR 4.0 CEUs (40 hours) every other year. This option is only available for Michigan BEI II and BEI III interpreters.*

Q: For Michigan BEI I Interpreters, is the four year Michigan credential cycle different from the four year BEI testing cycle?

A: Yes. The two cycles are different. Michigan BEI I interpreters are required to test for a higher level prior to the end of their fourth year of the BEI testing cycle. An interpreter's four year BEI testing cycle is set from the date of their initial BEI examination date. It is reset every time they take the Michigan BEI II examination. Interpreters are not required to test for a higher level after passing the Michigan BEI II unless they allow their Michigan certification to lapse.

Example: Interpreter G passes the Michigan BEI I Performance Test on June 23, 2015 and was listed as a Michigan certified interpreter on August 16, 2015. Interpreter G's four year Michigan credential cycle is from August 16, 2016 to August 15, 2020. Interpreter G's initial BEI testing cycle is from June 23, 2015 to June 22, 2019. If Interpreter G takes and fails the BEI II test on September 5, 2017, then Interpreter G's new BEI testing cycle is now from September 5, 2017 to September 4, 2021, but Interpreter G's Michigan credential cycle still ends (and CEUs are required by) on August 15, 2020.

Q: Why do the Michigan Certified Interpreter Policies and Procedures include information about the Michigan Educational Degree requirements when it is not effective until July 7, 2018?

A: Effective July 7, 2018, **ALL** Michigan certified interpreters are required to submit completion of an Associate's Degree or higher from an accredited institution. Any Michigan certified interpreter who initially obtained Michigan certification prior to July 7, 2014 will be exempt from the educational degree requirement unless they allowed any of their existing credentials to lapse for more than 30 calendar days. If that happens, then the interpreter will be required to comply with the educational degree requirement. This change could affect many Michigan certified interpreters and we want to ensure that every effort is made to notify interpreters of this.