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NVRA Certifications

NVRA certifies voice writers as court reporters, realtime reporters, CART providers, and broadcast captioners. Beyond any licensing considerations, NVRA certification clearly demonstrates that the voice writer has attained a level of professionalism and skill well above that of others in the field.

The NVRA certification testing program is available to all members. Tests are held at regular intervals throughout the year in various locations across the country. **Click here to view the testing schedule (testing)**.

In most states having certification or licensing requirements, NVRA's certifications are accepted in lieu of state testing. National certification through NVRA has a great value because our certifications are honored in so many states. As a result, the voice writer can move or work from state to state without the need to retest. Most people also find NVRA testing beneficial due to the workshop program and the total immersion of the test weekend experience.

The following states and the District of Columbia currently allow voice writers to practice in their judicial systems: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona (with VR system), Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana (pending),Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico (realtime only), North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington, DC.

NVRA offers the following national certifications:

Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR)

Certificate of Merit (CM)

Military Verbatim Reporter (MVR)

Realtime Verbatim Reporter (RVR)

Registered Broadcast Captioner - Master (RBC-M)

Registered CART Provider - Master (RCP-M)

In order to retain these certifications, the voice writer must maintain continuous membership in NVRA. If membership is not maintained, the certification is voided and the voice writer must retest to regain certification.

In addition, in order to retain these certifications, the voice writer must obtain 20 continuing education credits during each two-year cycle. Credits are given for voice writer education courses, continuing legal education courses, or college courses. In this way, NVRA strives to assure that its reporters stay ahead of the field in this ever-changing, technologically-oriented profession.

Criteria for certification are as follows:

CVR: Candidates must be a high school graduate and provide documentary proof of high school graduation, GED, or passage of an independently administered test approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Documentation of a higher education degree is also acceptable.

Candidates must be a General, Military, Student, or Honorary member of NVRA in good standing.

Candidates may attend an optional Test Readiness Session prior to testing. The fee for the session is $125.00. Should a candidate wish to attend additional sessions, the fees are as follows: second session $75.00; third and subsequent sessions $125.00.

Candidates must attain a score of 70 or greater on the Written Knowledge Test designed to test their knowledge of reporting the verbatim record, transcript production including vocabulary and punctuation, transcript distribution, professional responsibilities, and ethics.

Candidates must pass the Skills Test consisting of the dictation and transcription of three five-minute test segments with accuracy of 95 percent on each. The segments are a 180 word-per-minute literary, a 200 word-per-minute jury charge, and a 225 word-per-minute two-voice question and answer.

CM: Candidates must hold a valid CVR®, CVR®-M, or RPR and be a General, Military, or Honorary member of NVRA in good standing to test for the CM. For those in the process of earning the CVR®, CM segments may be achieved prior to the completion of the CVR®. However, the CVR® designation must be achieved before the CM can be attained.

Candidates must pass the Skills Test consisting of the dictation and transcription of three five-minute test segments with accuracy of 95 percent. The segments are a 200 word-per-minute literary, a 240 word-per-minute jury charge, and a 260 word-per-minute two-voice question and answer.

MVR: Military Verbatim Reporter (MVR) certification is open to all active duty military court reporters. The certification examinations will be offered at such times and places as requested by a military court reporter training program. In addition, an active duty military court reporter may register and test at any regularly scheduled CVR-CM examination.

In order to test, military personnel are required to join NVRA. The first year membership fee is currently being waived for military members. Continuous membership in NVRA is required in order to maintain certified status.

In recognition of the excellence of training and the difference between military and civilian practice for court reporters, there is no Written Knowledge Test requirement for the MVR.

Should a candidate wish to earn the NVRA CVR as well as the MVR, that person will be required to earn a score of 70% or better on the CVR Written Knowledge Test. The CVR can be earned either simultaneously with the MVR or at any future time through passage of the CVR Written Knowledge Test.

The MVR examination consists of three five-minute dictation segments: Literary at 180 wpm, Jury Charge at 200 wpm, and two-voice testimony at 225 wpm. Accuracy must be attained at 95% on each segment.

The MVR examination is governed by the regulations and grading rules found in the CVR-CM Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual (5/1/16).

The MVR fulfills the CVR prerequisite for CM and RVR certification.

RVR: Candidates must hold a valid CVR®, CVR®-M, or RPR and be a General, Military, or Honorary member of NVRA in good standing to test for the RVR®.

Candidates must pass the Skills Test consisting of the dictation and submission of at least one of three eight-minute segments with accuracy of 95 percent. No editing is permitted following the end of the dictation. The segments are a 180 word-per-minute literary, Q & A, jury charge. Segments will be graded in full-minute increments comprising five consecutive minutes. The lowest error total on a continuous five-minute segment will be considered the score.

Candidates may dictate any and all segments, and all submitted segments will be graded. Any passing segment will result in certification.

RCP-M: Candidates must be a high school graduate and provide documentary proof of high school graduation, GED, or passage of an independently administered test approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Documentation of a higher education degree is also acceptable.

Candidates must be a General, Military, Student, or Honorary member of NVRA in good standing.

The Dictation Skills Test for Registered CART Provider - Master (RCP-M) certification is comprised of one 22.5 minute dictation at variable speeds up to 225 wpm. The dictation simulates an actual CART environment and includes one main speaker, occasional comments from participants, and four (4) environmental sounds. The Dictation Skills Test must be passed with a minimum score of 97.5% with a standard drop down rate of 5 seconds or less.

Candidates must attain a score of 70 or greater on the Written Knowledge Test designed to test their knowledge of preparation and performance including hardware and software configurations, voice recognition technology and development, vocabulary and punctuation, the understanding of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and proper interaction therewith, professional responsibilities including FCC regulations, and ethics.

RBC-M: Candidates must be a high school graduate and provide documentary proof of high school graduation, GED, or passage of an independently administered test approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Documentation of a higher education degree is also acceptable.

Candidates must be a General, Military, Student, or Honorary member of NVRA in good standing.

The Dictation Skills Test for Registered Broadcast Captioner - Master (RBC-M) certification is comprised of one 22.5 minute dictation at variable speeds up to 225 wpm. The dictation simulates an actual broadcast captioning environment and includes two speakers (Anchor: news, weather, sports; Station Reporter: a package) and four (4) environmental sounds. The Dictation Skills Test must be passed with a minimum score of 97.5% with a standard drop down rate of 5 seconds or less.

Candidates must attain a score of 70 or greater on the Written Knowledge Test designed to test their knowledge of preparation and performance including hardware and software configurations, voice recognition technology and development, vocabulary and punctuation, the understanding of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and proper interaction therewith, professional responsibilities including FCC regulations, and ethics.

Complete information can be found in the *NVRA Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual* for each designation. Links to these manuals will be found on the Test Schedule Downloads tab.

NOTE: A passing score on the Written Knowledge Test is valid for a period of three years provided continuous NVRA membership is maintained. If you held a passing score on the Written Knowledge Test as of December 1, 2015, that score expires on November 30, 2018. After that date, you must retake the Written Knowledge Test in order to achieve your CVR.

NVRA's certification examinations meet the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (1999) and have been approved by a registered psychometrician.

For more information, contact: membership@nvra.org

Contact Information

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