
General information

After the second semester of the Translation Program, all students who have earned a grade of B- (80%) or better as the average of the two semesters will be eligible to take the exam for the University of Massachusetts Boston Translation Certificate. The Certificate exam will be given remotely. **Only those students who pass the exam will earn the certificate.** The Certificate exam is offered only twice per year, in June and December.

The courses and the Certificate exam are generally independent of each other. For instance, a student who does not pass the Certificate exam will still keep their credits for passing the courses, if that was the case.

What is the purpose of the UMass Boston Certificate Exam?

The Certificate Exam tests for basic professional translation skills. It is designed to determine whether a candidate is able to produce a translation that is professionally usable within the framework provided by the Translation Instructions.

What are the Translation Instructions?

In addition to the text to be translated, each exam passage includes Translation Instructions, specifying the context within which the translation is to be performed (text source and translation purpose, audience, and medium) and providing specific instructions such as “text is intended for educated non-specialists” or “translate xxx as XXX.” Translation Instructions can be thought of as reflecting the client's expectations, were the examination a real-life translation assignment.

What is the cost of the exam?

The first try of the exam is free for all students who just finished the Translation Program. The second try will be free for the 2020/2021 cohort.

Who can take the exam?

In order to register for the exam, candidates must successfully complete the two courses of the Translation Program (Span 408 and Span 409) with a combined average grade of 80/100 or more.

- If you obtained a B- (80) or higher in each semester, you are automatically entitled to take the exam.

- If you got less than a B- (80) in the two semesters, you are not eligible to take the exam at this time.
- If you received less than a B- (80) in only one semester, please check with us.

Please contact us at courses@umbtranslation.org for further information.