STEP 3: WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is an intermediate-level test requiring extensive self-preparation. It is completely in English and consists of **135 multiple-choice questions** that assess:

- Basic, general English proficiency
- Court terminology and ethics knowledge

The exam is **written by the National Center for State Courts** and administered by the **Office of the Executive Secretary for the Supreme Court of Virginia**.

Exam Details:

- **Minimum passing score:** 80%
- **Attempts allowed:** Three (once every six months)
- **If all three attempts are unsuccessful:** Candidates must complete an English course, at their own expense. Acceptable courses include:
    - TOEFL Prep Course
    - Upper-level English college course
    - Courses specifically designed to prepare for the interpreter written exam
- **After completing a qualified course:** Two additional attempts will be permitted before disqualification from the program

Fee: $125

The written exam is available for **all languages** and is a required step to become a certified or qualified interpreter.

Prerequisites: Completion of Steps One and Two (webinars and oral proficiency interviews)

Please refer to our **calendar** for registration dates and locations.

****Note**: If a candidate takes the same examination with another certifying or testing entity within a twelve (12)-month period, the exam version must be verified with that entity. If verification confirms that the candidate took the same version of the exam within a twelve (12) month period as the version administered by this program, the score will not be accepted, in accordance with National Center for State Courts (NCSC) rules.

Additionally, no exam scores from any entity will be accepted for any reason if the second examination attempt occurred less than six (6) months after a prior attempt, regardless of exam version or testing entity.