

FAQs

What can I do to prepare?

Of course, any time you are learning a language, you want to immerse yourself in as many language rich settings as you can, as often as possible.

Aside from that, read over the SLPI Descriptors document that was provided to you. Learn as much as you can about the test. Look at the description of the level that you want to have and aim for the one above it. Analyze the information and practice, practice, practice. An example of how you might use this information.

On the intermediate level, it states that you are able to discuss daily social and work topics comfortably. What are your daily activities and interactions? What constitutes a social environment? Who does it involve? What are you able to talk about on this? What constitutes work? What can you tell someone about your job? Make up some practice questions, rehearse your response. Practice these questions with members of the deaf community. Ask them to tell you about their family, friends, job or other daily activities, see how they respond to you and to other deaf individuals.

Also on the intermediate level, you will notice that your answers need to be at least 3-5 sentences long. If the interviewer asks you to describe your house and you reply, "I live in a three bedroom, two bath, brick house" (appropriate for a dialogue in English, but not for a conversation in ASL), your one sentence response is hitting much lower than an intermediate.

Use of Grammar is also important. A brief description is provided for you under A Brief Description of the SLPI.

How long does it take until I get my results?

SLPI results vary in the time that is needed to evaluate a particular interview. Once the interviews are completed, the DVDs are copied from our office. The coordinator must contact each SLPI member and organize statewide teams. The DVDS are then mailed out throughout the state to various teams. The team will complete the evaluation and return it in the mail to the coordinator. As each evaluation is completed, they are processed and mailed out to the individual.

Issues which could delay results include the number of interviews which are conducted during a given time. If 30 people interview in a month, it will take much longer for the evaluation teams to be able to process the interviews, which can take two to four hours each. If there are only three interviews that month, it obviously would take much less time to complete the evaluations for three interviews.

Sometimes team members are unable to come to a consensus on the result of the interview or the coordinator disagrees with the results or the individual did not pass at the level that is necessary for their goal. If an individual does not pass, they are automatically sent to a second team - (if they are within a level of passing). In any of these cases, they must then be re-submitted to another team. Once the second evaluation is completed, they are then mailed back to the coordinator. If it is in accordance with the first evaluation, the score stands, if not, it is sent to a third team for evaluation.

We hope to have your results to you in 30 to 45 days, but there are extenuating circumstances, as discussed above. Rest assured that yours is being processed as quickly as possible and results will be forwarded to you once they are completed. If you have not gotten results after 45 days, please feel free to contact our office and we will give you any available updates.

What if I don't get the score that I wanted?

You are eligible to re-take the exam after three months. In the mean time, look over the feedback that you received and focus on those areas. (Also see the question above regarding "Preparing for the SLPI.")

Set up a meeting with the SLPI coordinator to review your tape. You will have the opportunity to view your taped interview. The coordinator will walk you through your interview, the evaluation and determination of your score. This should provide you with tools to understand your score and to apply to your next interview.

If you are nervous, especially if this causes you to become reserved in communication. The SLPI needs to see you produce language and to produce it comfortably. Sometimes being nervous will cause you to make more errors or to produce language that is more English-like. Try to find a way to relax, practice relaxation techniques, video yourself beforehand etc. Find what works for you.

Another thing to consider is the number of misproductions. If you have a lot of sign errors, the highest you can score is Survival Plus. Your functional level may be much higher, but the form of your signing will determine your final score. So clean up those misproductions!

What are my options for taking the SLPI?

Interviews are available on the second Friday of each month between the hours of 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Department of Mental Health Central Office in Montgomery. Each individual is scheduled at 30 minute intervals.

Interviews are available at various regional offices throughout the state.

If you are out of state, and wish to take the SLPI in-person within your state, we will provide you with a list of current SLPI coordinators. Cost, scheduling and reporting of results will depend on the specific agency's policies and timelines.

Interviews are available through video technology. There are some considerations that may arise as a result of the format of the interview, including technical issues and discourse or turn-taking challenges. This option is normally recommended for individuals at an Advanced or higher signing ability who are comfortable with video technology. Effective SLPI interviews may or may not be hindered by the speed or clarity of the connection, and it may also impact natural discourse that are a part of the SLPI evaluation.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

SLPI Coordinator: Charlene Crump charlene.crump@mh.alabama.gov

SLPI Scheduler: Shannon Reese shannon.reese@mh.alabama.gov