

# Teaching Translation for Professional Purposes at LaGuardia Community College

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# General Assumptions

- \* Anybody who speaks a language can translate from or into that language
  - \* Students do not need to take courses in a language if they already speak the language
- \* Translation/Interpretation skills can be learned in a few weeks of intensive training
- \* Students do not need to learn Standard if they can communicate in a particular local dialect

# BICS AND CALP

- BICS= Basic Interpersonal Communication Strategies (6 months-2 years)
- CALP= Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (5 to 7 years)
- Well paying translation jobs with career advancement opportunities require CALP
- CALP (compare, contrast, evaluate, synthesize) is not acquired in a few weeks of intensive training
- <https://morethanenglish.edublogs.org/learning-english/> (Cummins and Krashen)

**BICS** (social)

**CALP**  
(academic)

# What Translators Need to Learn Before They Do Professional Translations

- Comparative Grammar: use of articles, the passive voice, syntax in both languages
- False Cognates
- Linguistic Calques
- Academic and professional vocabulary in a variety of fields
- Nuance
- Cultural context

# How We Assess What Students Learn Before They Transfer to Hunter College

- Vocabulary section on midterms and finals in literature (colonial and modern/contemporary) and culture classes
- Literary analysis in the capstone, Advanced Spanish Composition
- Advanced Spanish Grammar and Usage/English Morphology
- Close consultation about how our students perform once they transfer to Hunter College