A Registered Diplomate Reporter is a stenographic reporter who possesses the knowledge, skill, ability to produce a verbatim record of proceedings, basic knowledge of reporter-related terminology and technology. A "verbatim record" is one which accurately reflects the spoken word and nonverbal communication and action.

**Purpose of the Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR) Program**

The Registered Diplomate Reporter was established to show the competency and skills of an advanced stenographic reporter.

An RDR abides by all rules and regulations affecting the court reporting profession and is in compliance with the NCRA Code of Ethics at all times.

**Requirements of the RDR Credential**

In order to obtain the RDR credential, one must be a Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), and pass a written knowledge test with at least 70% accuracy.

To maintain the RDR credential, one must maintain current NCRA membership and obtain 3.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every three (3) years.

**History of the RDR Job Analysis**

The original RDR job analysis was prepared in 1994 by the National Court Reporters Association in cooperation with the Diplomate Examination Service, a not-for-profit testing corporation. NCRA works with its outside testing vendor to update the Job Analysis approximately every five to seven years per industry standards.

**Overview of the RDR Job Analysis Study**

In October 2017, a full study was performed to update the RDR Job Analysis. After the Job Analysis Task Force created the new domains and tasks, a survey was sent to the NCRA Registered membership to rate the frequency and importance of each task. Based on these ratings, percentages were assigned to each domain and task.

**Benefits of Certification**

NCRA takes seriously the need to develop and administer objective and valid exams. The judicial system, and society as a whole, depends heavily on the services that only a qualified court reporter can provide. Therefore, working with Pearson VUE, a premier national testing authority, NCRA has established a test development and administration process that ensures that those who pass an NCRA certification are truly qualified to provide court reporting services based on that established standard.

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, it’s harder than ever to impress your clients and employers. In this environment, there are only so many ways for you to differentiate yourself. Now more than ever, it’s critical that all stenographic reporters take the next step. It’s time for you to add an NCRA certification to your list of career accomplishments.
## Domains and Tasks of the Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR) Exam

### Domain 01

**Technology and Innovation (42%)**

Utilize current technology to generate and deliver transcripts.

- Hardware and peripherals
- Computer operating systems
- CAT Software

Utilize current technology to provide realtime and/or captioning services.

- Consumer’s viewing platforms
- Wired and wireless connections
- Rough-draft guidelines
- File formats
- File compression
- CAT/Captioning software
- Remote streaming methods (e.g., for classrooms, conventions, webinars)

Troubleshoot issues related to realtime and/or captioning services.

- Cabling/connections
- COM ports
- Driver installation/administrative privileges
- Baud rate
- Device Manager
- Firewalls and anti-virus software
- Power management settings
- Hot spots/Wi-Fi/LANs/WANs
- Realtime viewers/monitor output
- Captioning specific software

Manage electronic files for storage and retrieval.

- Zip files
- Storage drive types
- File transfer methods
- Cloud-based storage
- Archiving/backing up
- File associations

Utilize online resources to prepare and research job-related materials.

- Online search engines

*Technology questions related to computer knowledge are based on Windows operating systems

### Domain 02

**Industry Practices (22%)**

Produce accurate transcripts using proper spelling, word usage, and punctuation.

- Punctuation rules
- Spelling rules
- Grammar rules

Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of vocabulary

- Topic-related resources
- Homophones, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, acronyms, initialisms, phrases, and idioms
- Medical terms
- Legal terms
- Foreign phrases (e.g., Latin, French, Greek)
- Industry/trade terms

Understand the duties and responsibilities of a court reporter and/or captioner in various settings.

- Swearing in/affirming deponents, witnesses, interpreters, and minors
- Marking and custody/control of exhibits
- Sealing and redaction procedures
- Rules for reading back testimony
- Procedures related to off-the-record discussions
- Environmental cues
- Deaf, deaf, and hard-of-hearing consumers
- Legal decorum
- Captioner preparation and setup procedures

Understand the legal process.

- Pleadings and procedures
- Court structure

Adhere to applicable local, state, and federal rules regarding court reporting and captioning.

- Equal access to the spoken word in accordance with established guidelines
- FCC, ADA, and Telecommunications Act
- When records become public
- Freedom of Information Act

### Domain 03

**NCRA, Professionalism, and Ethics (19%)**

Understand the history, mission, structure, and guidelines of NCRA and NCRF.

- NCRA policies and procedures
- NCRA certifications
- NCRA membership requirements
- NCRA strategic plan and government relations
- NCRA continuing education requirements
- NCRA position statements
- NCRF committees
- NCRF governance
- NCRF hierarchy

Adhere to the NCRA Code of Professional Ethics.

- COPE general guidelines and advisory opinions

Promote the Association, the profession, and the membership through NCRA and NCRF initiatives and other avenues.

- NCRA mentorship
- NCRA professional development
- NCRF volunteerism
Job Analysis:
Registered Diplomate Reporter

Domain 04
Business Practices (17%)

Develop and maintain protocols regarding the security of information.

- Compliance with HIPAA requirements
- Internet security and potential vulnerabilities
- Court requirements regarding redaction and preserving Personally Identifiable Information
- Sealing procedures
- Secure transfer protocols
- Personally Identifiable Information/Sensitive Personal Information

Implement and follow all applicable local, state, and federal rules regarding business practices.

- IRS rules
- Insurance policy reviews
- Professional and general liability, COBRA, and worker’s comp insurance
- Retirement plans (e.g., ERISA, 401(k), IRA, defined benefit plans)
- Employment law

Establish protocols relating to business management.

- Sales and marketing plans
- Independent contractor vs. employee status
- Business structure (e.g., LLC, LLP, S-Corp, C-Corp, PC)
- Performance review and HR management
- Business law

References

All references are the most recent editions, unless otherwise noted.

Business
Dictionary of Business Terms (Barron’s)
Dictionary of Insurance Terms (Barron’s)
Marketing Your Services for People Who Hate to Sell
Robert’s Rules of Order

Computer
Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms (Barron)
Windows Help

General
Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations
Deposition Handbook
Dictionary (Merriam-Webster’s)
NCRA (Journal of Court Reporting, web site, Policies and Procedures Manual, other)

Grammar
Glossaries for Court Reporters
Grammar for Court Reporters
Gregg Reference Manual
Morson’s English Guide for Court Reporters

Legal
ADA Information
Black’s Law Dictionary (8th)
The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citations
Federal & State Rules of Civil and Appellate Procedures
Federal Register
IRS Publications
Special Interest Groups (e.g. AAJ, ABA)

Medical
Health Professional’s Drug Guide
Stedman’s Medical Dictionary (28th ed)

Technology
Alternative Realtime Careers
CART in the Courtroom: NCRA Model Guidelines
CAT Software Manuals
The Complete Court Reporter’s Handbook and Guide for Realtime Writers
The Court Reporter’s and CART Services Handbook
Closed Captioning Handbook
Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms (McGraw-Hill)
Realtime Writing
Windows 10 for Dummies
Writing Naked