CHES and MCHES Certification

Commit to Quality

Melissa Opp, MPH, MCHES
NCHEC Deputy Executive Director

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Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG)
NCHEC’s Mission

- Enhance the professional practice of Health Education by promoting and sustaining a credentialed body of Health Education Specialists
- To meet this mission, NCHEC
  - Certifies health education specialists
  - Promotes professional development
  - Strengthens professional preparation and practice
CHES/MCHES Certification = Quality Assurance
### Responsibilities, Competencies & Sub-Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Areas of Responsibility</th>
<th>Competencies</th>
<th>Sub-competencies</th>
<th>Entry Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUP 2006</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>82, 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEJA 2010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>162, 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>HESPA 2015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>141, 117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Health Education Specialist

## Seven Areas of Responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education Resource Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHES Eligibility

- Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degree from an accredited institution, **AND**

- A **major** in: health education, community health education, public health education, school health education, **OR**

- 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) specific to course work related to areas of responsibility and competencies
Pre-Screening/Review Service

- Optional service
  - Not sure whether or not you are eligible?
- Transcript review
- Fee
The CHES Exam

- Competency-based pencil-and-paper exam
- 165 multiple-response questions
- Identifies each Area of Responsibility
- Offered at over 130 testing locations nationwide
- Study companion available
The CHES Examination Blueprint

Examination Specifications based on HEJA-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education Resource Person</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
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Apply for CHES Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April Exam</th>
<th>October Exam</th>
<th>Non-Student Fee</th>
<th>Student Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Registration Deadline: Dec 1(^{st})</td>
<td>1(^{st}) Registration Deadline: Jun 1(^{st})</td>
<td>$240</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Registration Deadline: Jan 2(^{nd})</td>
<td>2(^{nd}) Registration Deadline: Jul 1(^{st})</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Registration Deadline: Feb 1(^{st})</td>
<td>3(^{rd}) Registration Deadline: Aug 1(^{st})</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Deadline: Mar 1(^{st})</td>
<td>Final Deadline: Sept 1(^{st})</td>
<td>$330</td>
<td>$265</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) Credential

**CHES**
Minimum of the past 5 continuous years active status

**Non-CHES**
Or CHES <5 yrs active status

- Master’s degree or higher in Health Education
  OR
- Master’s degree or higher with transcript reflecting 25 semester hours addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility

5 yrs experience as a health education specialist
- CV/Resume
- 2 letters of recommendation
The MCHES Examination

- Style & Structure
  - Provided at the same sites where CHES exam offered
  - 3 hours to complete
  - 165 multiple choice questions; 150 scored, 15 pilot
  - Stand alone & scenario-based multiple choice items
  - Covers all 7 Areas of Responsibility; there are 117 advanced-level only Sub-competencies
CHES/MCHES Exam Schedule

Twice Each Year

April

October
CHES/MCHES Certification Requirements

- Pass written examination
- Annual $55.00 renewal fee
- 75 hours of continuing education with a five-year cycle
- Recertify at the fifth year if renewal fees are paid and continuing education requirements have been met
CECH Categories

- Category I
  - Events offered by providers
  - Pre-approved by NCHEC
  - Minimum 45 CECH

- Category II
  - Events offered by providers
  - Not pre-approved by NCHEC
  - Maximum 30 CECH

- MCHES
  - Required to earn 30 CECH directly related to the advanced-level Sub-competencies from Category I and/or II
CHES and MCHES: The Right Step for Your Career

Certified health education specialists agree—certification is valuable.

- 75% say the CHES or MCHES enhance their personal confidence
- 82% say they are more confident in their professional interactions
- 87% say certification gives them a sense of personal satisfaction
- 90% say certification helps them feel a sense of personal accomplishment

*NCHEC Value of the CHES and MCHES Certification Study: A Cross-Sectional Examination of Current CHES/MCHES perspectives.*
“Having the CHES credential not only made me more marketable when I applied to my current job, but it also helped me earn trust and respect within my organization and the community I work in.”

Stephanie Plante-Burks, MPH, CHES
Health Educator
Okmulgee County Health Department
Benefits of Certification

- Establishes national standard
- Attests to individual’s knowledge and skills

Assists employers in identifying qualified practitioners

- Promotes sense of pride and accomplishment
- Promotes continued professional development
Health Educator is listed as one of Time Magazine’s “5 Best Jobs You’ve Never Heard Of” for 2015!
Settings

- Healthcare
- Government
- State Health Departments
- University/Health Centers
- Worksite/Insurance

Companies

- MD Anderson Cancer Center/Montefiore
- US Air force/Army
- AK/NJ/OK
- University of TX, Lehigh U
- Health Fitness/Health Maintenance Institute
“Montefiore has required the CHES credential for its health education positions since 2006. The credential has served as a means of highlighting talented individuals with a broad understanding of the health education profession and its application within the diverse communities that we serve as an academic medical center.”

- Dr. Nicole Harris-Hollingsworth, Assistant Vice President, Community & Population Health – Montefiore Health System
The Tulsa Health Department avidly seeks CHES eligible applicants when hiring and/or recruiting – our agency views this as a benefit that enhances our public health workforce. By hiring CHES certified applicants, THD is able to take advantage of the rich expertise of these individuals that have a greater understanding and skill set with relation to health education and promotion and a broader understanding of the community. Enhancing our public health workforce with Certified Health Education Specialists also provides our organization with credibility.  

Pam Rask, MPH, Division Chief, Health Promotion & Community Engagement
Universities

- The Health Promotion Section of the American College Health Association (ACHA) released the second edition of the *Guidelines for Hiring Health Promotion Professionals in Higher Education in May 2014.*
- First published in 2008
- Second edition serves to encourage and support institutions of higher education in hiring the most qualified staff
- The first edition included CHES and now the most recent edition includes MCHES
University

• "We looked for a professional who held MCHES designation to fill the new position of Director of Prevention Strategies. That decision was driven by our certainty that success would depend upon finding an individual with the advanced knowledge, skills, and experience to successfully champion our new vision for health promotion, create a campus-wide agenda to advance student health through prevention, and develop and implement a high-level strategic plan. I am pleased to report that our process enabled us to appoint an outstanding professional." - John Smeaton, PhD, Vice Provost for Student Affairs at Lehigh University

• "At University of Texas at San Antonio, our Health Education Coordinators provide individual and large-scale health education opportunities for our student body. Collaborating with CHES/MCHES certified health educators, our students receive programming and information from professionals that have demonstrated an expertise in the core competencies essential to effective health education." - Amanda Graves, CHES, Health Education Coordinator at the University of Texas at San Antonio
US Army/US Air Force

- Army Wellness Centers are expanding to 37 sites worldwide
  - AWC Program Operations have partner with NCHEC to assist with recruitment of staff. Preference is given to CHES/MCHES applicants

US Air Force requires certification for Health Promotion Program Coordinators at the time of hire or within 1 year.
Employment Opportunities

In a competitive job market, health education specialists say the CHES credential gives a professional edge, setting you apart and opening up new job opportunities.

Check out Job Postings on NCHEC’s Web site at www.nchec.org.
Job Posting Page

NCHEC Can Help You Hire a CHES and/or MCHES

To assist in your search for CHES and/or MCHES, NCHEC will post job announcements on the web site free of charge. The only requirement is that the description must indicate that a CHES or MCHES is preferred or required in a job.

Employers: Please allow three to five business days for job announcements to be posted. The job postings will remain on the NCHEC web site for 90 days unless requested to take down.

A CHES/MCHES is specifically trained to:
- Assess needs, assets, and capacity for health education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Wellness Educator</td>
<td>Camarillo, CA</td>
<td>Jun 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Program Director</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>Jul 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.A.L.K. Program Director</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>Jul 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Education Coordinator</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Manager</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
<td>Jun 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition Educator</td>
<td>Lansing, MI</td>
<td>Jun 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Health Educator</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>Jun 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>Jun 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Saint Louis, MO</td>
<td>Jun 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>Jul 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Jun 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Start your Certification Journey Today

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc
1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303, Whitehall, PA 18052-5642
888-NCHEC4U (624-3248)
http://www.nchec.org

Brochures  Exam Application  Revised Framework  Study Guide