

Why Certify

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing's, Inc. (NCHEC) voluntary professional certification program establishes a national standard for individual health education practitioners. It is based on Responsibilities and Competencies that have been verified by a job practice analysis. It differs from state and local certifications and registries in that the requirements do not vary from one locale to another. National certification benefits practitioners and the public by:

- Establishing a national standard
- Attesting to individuals' knowledge and skills
- Assisting employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners
- Promoting continued professional development

What is a CHES?

A Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) is an individual that has:

1. Met academic eligibility
2. Passed a written examination
3. Has an ongoing commitment to continuing education



Publications to Assist Preparation

A Competency-Based Framework for Health Education Specialist – 2010

Presents a hierarchical model for health education practice and serves as the basis of the CHES exam. Includes a detailed comparison between the current and former set of Responsibilities and a summary of the research from the Job Analysis on the Health Education Competencies.

The Health Education Specialist: A Study Companion for Professional Excellence – 6th Edition

Provides in-depth analysis of each Area of Responsibility relative to the various roles and settings of health education practice. Includes a self-assessment to measure competence as a health education professional and practice questions.

► **To order, visit www.nchec.org**
click on Publications



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

To 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, and strengthens professional preparation and practice.

**National Commission for
Health Education Credentialing, Inc.**

1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303
Whitehall, PA 18052
Phone: (888)624-3248
Fax: (800)813-0727
Web: www.nchec.org

BECOME A CERTIFIED HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST (CHES)



Standard of Professional Excellence

www.nchec.org

The Exam

The Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam is a competency-based test that measures the possession, application and interpretation of knowledge related to the Seven Areas of Responsibility; a comprehensive set of Competencies and Sub-competencies defining the role of an entry-level health education specialist. These Responsibilities were verified through a role delineation and a job analysis process.



The CHES exam has met national standards in credentialing and received National Commission of Certified Agencies accreditation.

The CHES exam consists of 165 multiple-choice scored questions (15 pilot tested) and is administered in paper-and-pencil format.

Seven Areas of Responsibility

- Area I** Assess Needs, Assets and Capacity for Health Education
- Area II** Plan Health Education
- Area III** Implement Health Education
- Area IV** Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education
- Area V** Administer and Manage Health Education
- Area VI** Serve as a Health Education Resource Person
- Area VII** Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education

For more information specific to the Seven Areas of Responsibility, or to order A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educations Specialist, 2010, visit www.nchec.org.

Exam Eligibility

Eligibility for the CHES exam is based exclusively on academic qualifications. Applicants must possess a bachelor's, master's or doctorate's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, and either of the following:

An official academic transcript clearly depicting a major and/or degree in Health Education, Community Health Education, Public Health Education, School Health Education, etc. The degree and/or major must explicitly be in a discipline of health education.

OR

An official academic transcript reflecting at least 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) of course work addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility of health education specialist.

90-Day Eligibility

This eligibility option is available to students graduating within 90 days of a CHES exam date. To qualify, official transcripts and written verification from a faculty adviser confirming scheduled graduation must be submitted. Transcripts must depict a minimum of 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility of health education specialist.

Unsure of Eligibility

A **prescreen** service is available to those who are unsure of exam eligibility. For a \$25 nonrefundable fee, NCHEC will determine eligibility through review of official academic transcripts.

Prescreen applicants are notified in writing of the review's outcome. If deemed eligible, the fee is then applied toward the exam cost. If deemed ineligible, course deficiencies will be identified and guidance for qualification will be provided.

How to Apply

The CHES exam is offered at more than 120 colleges and universities throughout the United States. For a list of exam sites, to apply, or for a prescreen request form visit NCHEC's Web site at www.nchec.org.

Application Fees & Deadlines

| April Exam | October Exam | Nonstudent Fee | *Student Fee |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| U.S. Post Marked On or Before | | | |
| Dec 1 | Jun 1 | \$240 | \$210 |
| Jan 2 | Jul 1 | \$250 | \$210 |
| Feb 1 | Aug 1 | \$280 | \$210 |
| Mar 1 | Sep 1 | \$330 | \$265 |
| Prescreen Deadline | | | |
| Feb 1 | Aug 1 | \$25 | \$25 |

*The student fee is available for applicants enrolled full-time (minimum nine credits) in a university level program at the time of registration.

For more information on the CHES exam or eligibility requirements, please visit our Web site at www.nchec.org, or contact the Exam Coordinator at (888)624-3248 ext. 12.

