

CHES and MCHES Certification

Commit to Quality

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Director

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Public Health Professional Advisory Group (PHPAG)



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

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

CUP 2006

7 Areas of
Responsibility

29 Competencies

163 Sub-
competencies

- 82 Entry
- 81 Advanced

HEJA 2010

7 Areas of
Responsibility

34 Competencies

223 Sub-
competencies

- 162 Entry
- 61 Advanced

HESPA 2015

7 Areas of
Responsibility

36 Competencies

258 Sub-
competencies

- 141 Entry
- 117 Advanced

Health Education Specialist Seven Areas of Responsibility

I Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education

II Plan Health Education

III Implement Health Education

IV Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education

V Administer and Manage Health Education

VI Serve as a Health Education Resource Person

VII Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education

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

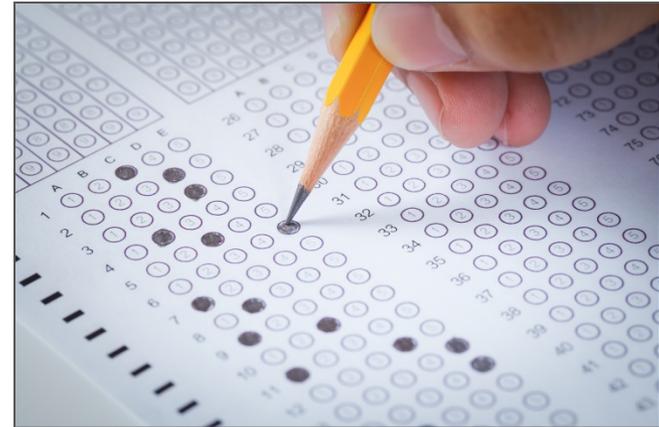
Pre-Screening/Review Service



- 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

No.	Area of Responsibility	%
I	Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education	12%
II	Plan Health Education	15%
III	Implement Health Education	24%
IV	Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education	15%
V	Administer and Manage Health Education	11%
VI	Serve as a Health Education Resource Person	16%
VII	Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education	7%

Apply for CHES Exam

April Exam	October Exam	Non-Student Fee	Student Fee
1st Registration Deadline: Dec 1 st	1 st Registration Deadline: Jun 1 st	\$240	\$210
2nd Registration Deadline: Jan 2 nd	2 nd Registration Deadline: Jul 1 st	\$250	\$210
3rd Registration Deadline: Feb 1 st	3 rd Registration Deadline: Aug 1 st	\$280	\$210
Final Deadline: Mar 1 st	Final Deadline: Sept 1 st	\$330	\$265

Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) Credential



CHES

*Minimum of the
past 5
continuous
years active
status*

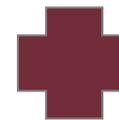
Non-CHES

*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

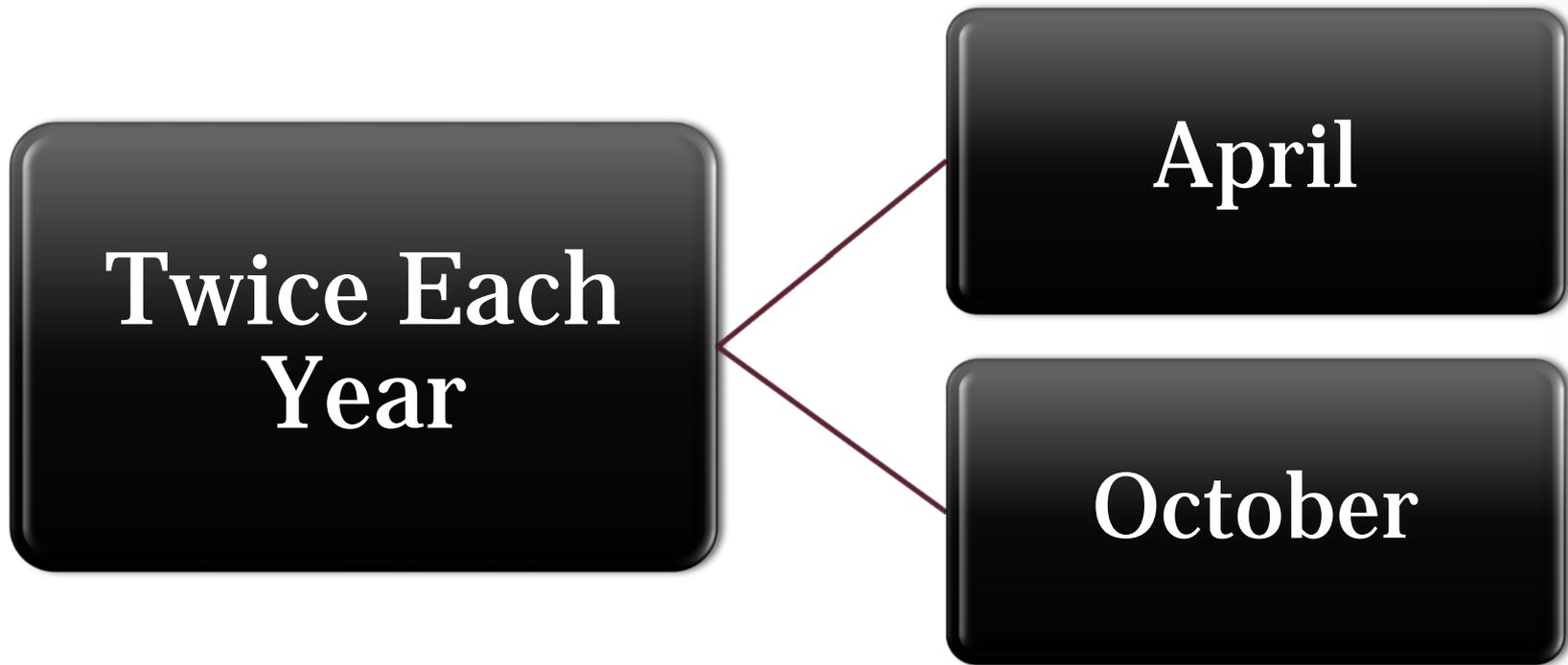
- *CV/Resume*
- *2 letters of
recommendation*

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



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.*



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

“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

TIME

- Health Educator is listed as one of Time Magazine's "5 Best Jobs You've Never Heard Of" for 2015!

TIME INC. NETWORK: MONEY TIME FORTUNE SPORTS ILLUSTRATED PEOPLE THIS OLD HOUSE HEALTH MORE

Money Outlook 2015

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An improving U.S. economy. A shortage of skilled labor. A worldwide oil glut. MONEY looked ahead to the biggest economic trends for the coming year and found dozens of ways you can profit.

Outlook 2015

The 5 Best Jobs You've Never Heard Of

What to Expect From the Housing Market in 2015

3 Ways to Get Cheaper Health Care in 2015

Here's What to Expect From the Bond Market in 2015

How to Take Advantage of Your Boss's Biggest Fear

Run business all across town.

How College Costs Will Change in 2015

CAREERS JOBS

The 5 Best Jobs You've Never Heard Of

Daniel Bortz @DanielBortz | Jan. 13, 2015

If you're itching for a career change in 2015, here are some fast-growing, high-paying options that have yet to hit the mainstream.

Good news, job seekers: employment opportunities look bright in 2015. Staffing levels are expected to rise 19%, according to ManpowerGroup's annual Employment Outlook Survey. Robust hiring gains are forecast for the "usual suspects," says Payscale.com's vice president Tim Low—namely retail, healthcare, and

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Money Outlook 2015

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Run business all across town.

How College Costs Will Change in 2015

CONTENT FROM IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

Outlook 2015

4. If you're a nutritionist, rehabilitation counselor, or athletic trainer, consider becoming a... **HEALTH-AND-WELLNESS EDUCATOR**

What it is: Previously outsourced, many companies are now hiring in-house specialists to offer health-and-wellness advice and services, says Brie Reynolds, director of online content at FlexJobs.com, which saw a spike in job postings for this position. The educator works with employees individually to assess personal health issues and create strategies tailored to each person's needs.

Why it's growing. Health improvements made by employees not only curb insurance costs but also boost job satisfaction, a key ingredient to retaining talent. Some employers are tying **financial incentives** to health-and-wellness achievements—discounting health insurance premiums for employees who lose weight, quit smoking, or lower blood pressure, among other behavioral changes.

How your skills translate: Pure and simple, you're a "people person." Your ability to connect with individuals and motivate them to make behavioral changes will come in handy when promoting healthy living strategies to workers.

Education requirements: 4-year degree and health education specialist certification. The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing has information on requirements and eligibility.

Average salary: \$62,280

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

HealthCare



“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**

Health Department



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.

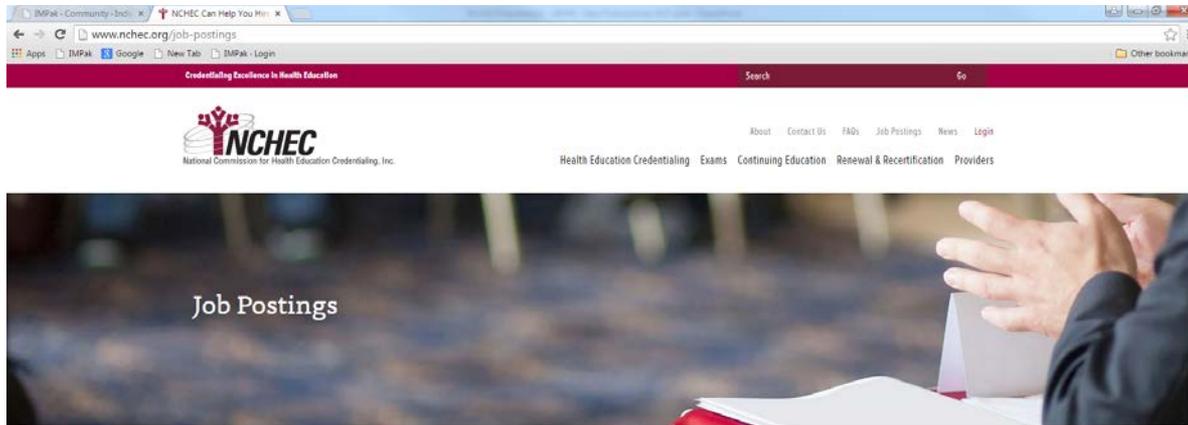
Employment Opportunities

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



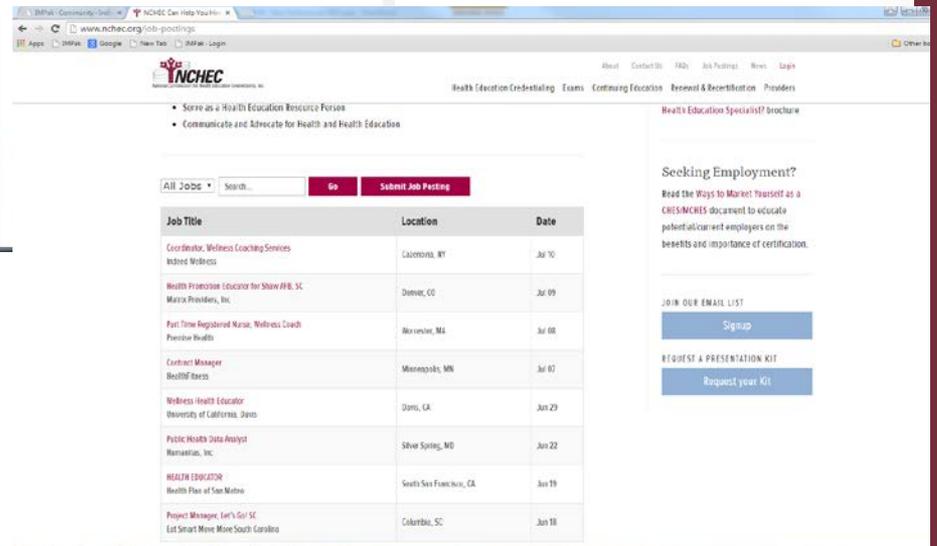
NCHCEC Can Help You Hire a CHES and/or MCHES

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

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

A CHES/MCHES is specifically trained to:

- Assess Needs, Assists, and Capacity for Health Education



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

