

Department of Health Science Community & Public Health Education

The **Community & Public Health Education Minor** in the Department of Health Science is designed to provide students with the skills and tools to identify community health needs; utilize problem solving abilities; and mobilize resources to develop, promote, implement, evaluate and facilitate strategies to improve health status. The **Community & Public Health Education Minor** will help students develop skills in identifying the behavioral and environmental causes of community health concerns; facilitating community organizing and outreach efforts; identifying and writing appropriate grant funding proposals; and understanding and responding to data driven statistics concerning current and future health status. The **Community & Public Health Education Minor** serves as a foundation for students seeking certification as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). The minor, however, does not fulfill all requirements for the certification exam. Please see information regarding certification eligibility on the following page.

Required Courses: 6 semester hours

HLTH140: Introduction to Public Health	3.0 sh
HLTH204: Foundations of School and Community Health	3.0 sh

Elective Courses: Select at least 12 semester hours from this list

HLTH214: Planning and Assessment in School Health Education	2.0 sh
HLTH218: Public Health & the Environment	3.0 sh
HLTH235: Community Health Education Methods and Strategies	3.0 sh
HLTH240: Introduction to Epidemiology	3.0 sh
HLTH307: Cultural Aspects of Health	3.0 sh
HLTH330: School Health Programs	2.0 sh
HLTH350: Health Program Planning	3.0 sh
HLTH401: Current Issues in Health	3.0 sh
HLTH402: Evaluation in Health Education & Promotion Programs	3.0 sh
HLTH410: Applied Community & Public Health	3.0 sh
HLTH485: Field Experience in Health Science <i>Must be in a Community Health setting and the site supervisor at your site must hold a degree in the field (or closely related) aligned with your academic aspirations (MCHES/CHES preferred).</i>	varies

Total (minimum): 18 semester hours

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Certification Eligibility Information

Individuals completing at least 25 semester hours of course work with specific preparation addressing the Area of Responsibility for Health Educators (see below) are eligible to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam.

Health educators are professionals who design, conduct and evaluate activities that help improve the health of all people. These activities can take place in a variety of settings that include schools, communities, health care facilities, businesses, universities and government agencies.

Health educators are employed under a range of job titles such as patient educators, health education teachers, health coaches, community organizers, public health educators, and health program managers. Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) are those who have met the standards of competence established by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. (NCHEC) and have successfully passed the CHES examination. The CHES designation after a health educator's name is one indication of professional competency and commitment to continued professional development.

Source: National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. <http://www.nchech.org>

Areas of Responsibility for Health Educators

- Assess individual and community needs for health education
- Plan effective health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- Implement health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- Conduct evaluation and research related to health education
- Administer health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- Serve as a health education resource person
- Communicate and advocate for health and health education

For a complete listing of the Responsibilities and Competencies visit The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. @ <http://www.nchech.org>

For those planning to take the CHES examination:

In addition to the required coursework for the minor, we recommend the following courses be included in the 25 semester hours required to sit for the CHES exam:

- HLTH235 Community Health Education Methods and Strategies
- HLTH240 Introduction to Epidemiology
- HLTH307 Cultural Aspects of Health
- HLTH350 Health Program Planning
- HLTH402 Evaluation in Health Education & Promotion Programs
- HLTH410 Applied Community & Public Health