



## **Department of Health Science Careers in Health Education**

The Department of Health Science has been offering a bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health Education for thirty years. The degree provides the graduate with the opportunity to enter the growing professional field of health education that places strong emphasis on prevention. Below you will find some commonly asked questions about health education.

### **What Is Health Education?**

Health education is a process concerned with designing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs that enable individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to play active roles in achieving, protecting, and sustaining health.

Effective health education is planned with input from representatives of priority populations and is influenced by the nature of the health problem and setting (e.g., school, community, workplace, or health care organization).

### **What kind of student enrolls in the health education program?**

Generally, health education students are those who want to work in the health field because they care about people and want to make a difference in their community. Most are not interested in working as a clinician (i.e., hands-on patient care and treatment such as nurses, physicians and allied health professionals like respiratory technicians and physical therapists). However, it is not unusual for people who have been working as clinicians to seek a health education degree and focus their work on communities instead of individuals.

### **What do health educators do?**

Health Educators often:

- Perform health training needs assessments.
- Design and develop health education programs.
- Publish health education materials, information papers, and grant proposals.
- Develop health education curriculum.
- Teach health in public and private schools.
- Plan health promotion interventions

### **Where do health educators work?**

Health educators work in a variety of settings. These include:

- Local and State Health Departments
- University Health Centers
- Hospitals and Medical Centers
- Corporate Wellness Programs
- Federal Health Agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control
- Secondary Schools
- Insurance Companies
- and MANY MORE!

### **What kind of education do health educators have?**

Health educators must earn a bachelor's or master's degree in health education (e.g., Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Public Health). Studies cover public health research, health education theory and practice, social policy, health issues in different populations, community diagnosis, planning, management and evaluation techniques.

Salary Range: \$32,000 - \$80,000 (depending on U.S. region)

### **How are health educators certified?**

The nationally recognized certification for health educators is the **CHES** designation. CHES stands for Certified Health Education Specialist. It is earned by examination and is available to anyone who has minored or majored in health education during their baccalaureate program. To learn more about the C.H.E.S. certification , contact:

[National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.](#)

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