MPH Students:
Become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

About CHES
Health educators improve the health status of individuals, families, communities, states and the nation. The Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) is the national credential for health educators. Holding the CHES credential augments your degree in Health Science or Public Health, demonstrating your ability to conduct health education and promotion to employers, setting you apart on the job market. To learn more visit: http://www.nchec.org/

Health Education Specialists work in a variety of settings, including:
- Universities
- Public Schools
- Local and State Health Departments
- Non-profits
- Hospitals
- Corporations
- Armed Forces Wellness Centers

Titles and positions held by Certified Health Specialists include:
- Health Educator
- Wellness Coordinator
- Senior Education Manager
- Assistant Director, Student Wellness Center
- Program Manager
- Training Specialist
- Prevention and Community Outreach Specialist

For a list of current CHES job postings, visit: http://www.nchec.org/job-postings

CHES Eligibility/Pre-Screening
To qualify to sit for the CHES exam, you must have completed a minimum of 25 credit hours (with a grade "C" or better) in coursework in areas related to health education, health promotion, and wellness.

Your Academic Advisor can provide guidance on relevant coursework and a list of recommended courses can be found on the next page. However, only National Commission for Health Education Credentialing can verify your eligibility.

To verify your eligibility ("pre-screen"), you may submit your transcript and pay a $25 processing fee.

1. Go to https://www.nchec.org/ches-exam-eligibility
2. Scroll down and click on “New prescreen applicants apply here”

Once eligible, the earliest you may sit for the CHES exam is the semester in which you graduate with your bachelors degree (October exam for December graduates or April exam for May graduates) or any time after graduation.
Recommended Coursework* for MPH Students Seeking the CHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Public Health Courses</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 7150 Principles of Public Health (3)</td>
<td>Campus &amp; Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 7160 Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Public Health (3)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 7800 Public Health Campaign Successes &amp; Failures (3)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8001-XX Strategic Health Communication (3)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8120 Applied Epidemiology in Community Assessment (3)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8270 Storytelling in Public Health and Public Policy (3)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8300 Health Care in the United States (3)</td>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8420 Principles of Epidemiology (3)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Campus &amp; Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8675 Strategic Health Communication (3)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8920 Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (3)</td>
<td>Campus &amp; Online</td>
<td>Campus &amp; Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 8953 Developing &amp; Evaluating Global Public Health Programs (3)</td>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_HLTH 7900: Seminar in Health Education – <strong>CHES Exam Prep</strong> (1)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
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(first 8 weeks of fall and spring semesters)

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<tr>
<th>Outside Graduate Courses</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 8930 Health Program Design and Management (3)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEP 7590 Community Nutrition (3)</td>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUB_AF 8720 Budgeting &amp; Financial Management in Public and Nonprofit Sector (3)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</table>

*Must total to a minimum of 25 credit hours

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. CHES may accept other courses meeting their required competencies. CHES will count undergraduate credit hours toward the requirements.

To discuss course requirements to prepare for the CHES examination, contact your Academic Advisor.
About the Exam

The CHES examination is a competency-based tool used to measure possession, application and interpretation of knowledge in the Seven Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists.

Area I: Assess Needs, Resources and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion  
Area II: Plan Health Education/Promotion  
Area III: Implement Health Education/Promotion  
Area IV: Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion  
Area V: Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion  
Area VI: Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person  
Area VII: Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health, Health Education/Promotion, and the Profession

FAQs

How do I study for the CHES exam?

Take the P_HLTH 7900 course the semester you plan to take the CHES exam. The course utilizes the following study book. Whether or not you take the 7900 prep course, this is the best study resource available.


- Purchase online: [https://www.nchec.org/ches-studying-for-exams](https://www.nchec.org/ches-studying-for-exams)

How do I sign up to take the CHES exam?

Apply Online at: [http://www.nchec.org/ches-exam-application](http://www.nchec.org/ches-exam-application)

When is the CHES exam offered?

The CHES exam is only offered twice per year, a 10 day period in April and 10 day period in October. Check the website for exact dates.

Where do I take the CHES exam?

Visit [https://www.prometric.com/en-us/clients/NCHEC/Pages/landing.aspx](https://www.prometric.com/en-us/clients/NCHEC/Pages/landing.aspx) to find a testing site near you. The closest testing site to the MU campus is located in Jefferson City, MO.

What is the format of the CHES exam?

Consisting of 165 multiple-choice questions (150 scored and 15 pilot tested), the CHES examination is offered in a computer-based format.
How much does the CHES exam cost?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL 2019 EXAM CYCLE</th>
<th>Registration Will Open November 1, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 11-20, 2019 CHES® Exam</td>
<td>Nonstudent Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration: 11/1/2018 - 11/30/2018</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration: 12/1/2018 - 1/31/2019</td>
<td>$320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Late) Registration Deadline: 2/1/2019 - 2/28/2019</td>
<td>$370</td>
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<tr>
<th>OCTOBER 2019 EXAM CYCLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 10-19, 2019 CHES® Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration: 5/1/2019 - 5/31/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration: 6/1/2019 - 7/31/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Late) Registration Deadline: 8/1/2019 - 8/31/2019</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fees posted include a $100 nonrefundable processing fee for those who do not meet the eligibility requirements or choose to withdraw from the exam. 

*Student fee is used ONLY if you are a currently taking or enrolled in 9 or more semester credits (12 or more quarter hours) at the time you apply for the exam. (Graduate or Undergraduate)

Can I receive accommodations for the CHES exam?

Yes. You will need to request accommodations through CHES and supply documentation of your disability accommodations needed.

What is the CHES exam pass rate?

The national CHES exam pass rate is about 62%. You are strongly encouraged to take the HS4900 course to study for the exam.

Next Steps

1. Visit [https://www.nchec.org/ches](https://www.nchec.org/ches)
2. Meet with your Academic Advisor to discuss relevant coursework.
3. Questions? Contact Jenna Wintemberg, DPH Faculty, at wintembergj@health.missouri.edu