Health Education Minor

The goal of the Health Education minor in the Department of Community and Family Health is for students to develop basic skills in the development, implementation, and evaluation of theory-based public health education and health promotion programs for diverse audiences. The minor will also help prepare students for graduate coursework focused in these areas. By completing an additional 10 semester hours along with the minor, students should be eligible to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) national exam.

Upon completion of the Health Education minor coursework, a student will be able to:
1. Articulate major public health theories and models focused on behavior change.
2. Develop health education programs for diverse audiences based on sound planning theory, tested frameworks and research design.
3. Communicate health education messages based on effective health communication strategies.
4. Develop skills in working with the media and health promotion advocacy.

The Health Education minor consists of 15 credit hours. It is recommended that students follow the sequence of courses listed below. Electives may be chosen from a broad array of courses in consultation with Public Health undergraduate advisors in the Department of Community and Family Health.

**Required Courses: 12 credit hours**

- PHC 4409 Health Education Theory and Behavior (newly proposed course)
- PHC 4500 Intervention Program Planning and Management (newly proposed course)
- PHC 4780 Health Education Methods, Communication, and Advocacy (newly proposed course)
- PHC 4942 Public Health Field Seminar

**Choose 1 elective: 3 credit hours**

- HSC 3541 Human Structure and Function*
- HSC 4579 Foundations of Maternal and Child Health*
- HSC 4631 Critical Issues in Public Health*
- HUN 3296 Nutrition and Disease
- HUN 3272 Sports Nutrition
- PHC 3721 Research Methods in Environmental and Occupational Health*
- PHC 4188 Public Health Emergencies in Large Populations
- PHC 4140 Introduction to Public Health Geographic Information Systems (GIS) *
- PHC 4542 Stress, Health, and College Life

*Online offerings
Please consult with your advisor and Dr. Wright in the College of Public Health lwrigh10@health.usf.edu for additional elective courses.

**The Certified Health Education Specialist Exam (CHES):**

This Minor will prepare students to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam that requires 25 semesters hours meeting the areas below:

**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

**Students Pursuing the BS in Public Health**

For those students who are pursuing the BS in Public Health, the examples of electives for the Health Education Minor shown on the previous page could be considered for the remainder of hours to sit for the CHES Exam (10 semester hours). However, if you use any of these courses to fulfill the required elective component of the BS in Public Health you cannot also use these courses to fulfill the requirements of the Minor. Please consult with Dr. Wright in the College of Public Health (lwrigh10@health.usf.edu) for more information.

**Students Not Pursuing the BS in Public Health:**

For those students who are not pursuing the BS in Public Health but another undergraduate degree, it is important to check with your advisor to determine those courses that could qualify for the 10 additional semester hours to sit for the CHES exam. The courses listed above as electives on the previous page are possibilities. Please also consult with Dr. Wright in the College of Public Health (lwrigh10@health.usf.edu) for more information.

**Additional Information about the CHES from the website:** http://www.nchec.org/ches_exam/eligible/

**CHES Exam Eligibility**

Eligibility to take the CHES examination is based exclusively on academic qualifications. An individual is eligible to take the examination if he/she has:
A bachelor's, masters or doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education; AND one of the following:

- An official transcript (including course titles) that clearly shows a major in health education, e.g., Health Education, Community Health Education, Public Health Education, School Health Education, etc. Degree/major must explicitly be in a discipline of "Health Education."

OR

- An official transcript that reflects at least 25 semester hours or 37 quarter hours of course work with specific preparation addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility and Competency for Health Educators

Nondiscrimination

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of religion, gender, ethnic background or physical disability.

90-Day Eligibility Option

The 90-day option is offered to students scheduled to graduate within 90 days of an exam date. To qualify for this option, a student must be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education, and must submit an official transcript showing a minimum of 25 semester hours relating to the Area of Responsibility along with written verification from his/her faculty advisor assuring the student will complete all degree requirements within 90 days of the exam date.

Prescreening Service (optional)

This is a separate optional service offered to individuals and should ONLY be used if you are not sure you meet the requirements for the CHES exam. Upon receipt of the prescreen request form, fee and the applicant's official academic transcripts, NCHEC will review an applicant's credentials to determine eligibility. Deficiencies, if any, will be identified and guidance for exam qualification will be provided. This service is particularly useful to applicants whose academic preparation does not include a degree in health education, but who may have accumulated sufficient health education course work to qualify for the CHES examination. The prescreen request form requires a nonrefundable fee of $25.00. If eligible, the fee is applied toward the exam registration fee.

Prescreen Schedule:

- April Cycle: November 1 - February 1
- October Cycle: May 1 - August 1

Appeal of Denial of Eligibility:

1. If NCHEC does not approve an application for educational and/or disciplinary reasons, the applicant can initiate an appeal. Appeals must be made in writing to the Executive Director of NCHEC, including any supportive documents. The applicant is responsible for demonstrating that the appeal should be granted.

2. Appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate Division Board staff for review. The applicant will be notified in writing via USPS mail of the subsequent decision.

Requests for Special Testing Accommodations

Applicants requesting special arrangements and other special needs due to disabilities or religious restrictions must indicate this information on the application. Supporting documentation is required such as a letter from a religious leader indicating necessity to take for the exam on Sunday if choosing a Sabbath site. All requests must be received by application final deadline.