

WHAT IS A CERTIFIED HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST?



AND WHY CREDENTIALING IS IMPORTANT TO HEALTH EDUCATORS

WHAT IS A CHES?

- A professional who designs, conducts and evaluates activities that help improve the health of all people
- A professional employed as a patient educator, health education teacher, trainer, community organizer and health program managers.

THE BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

- Establishes a national standard for individual health education practitioners
- Attests to the individual's knowledge and skills
- Assists employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners
- Assures employers that services are provided by professionals who have met national standards
- Promotes continued professional development

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Certification is valid for 5 years
- During those years the CHES must accumulate 75 hours of continuing education
- The annual renewal fee is \$55
- On the fifth year the CHES recertifies by demonstrating completion of 75 continuing education contact hours and paying the annual fee of \$55

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION?

Those who have completed one of the following:

- An individual who has completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, from an accredited institution, with a major in:
- Health Education, Community Health Education, Public Health Education, School Health Education, etc.
- The 90-day option is offered to students scheduled to graduate within 90 days of the exam date with an eligible bachelor's, masters or doctoral degree.
- An official transcript that reflects at least 25 semester hours of course work with specifically addressing the Areas of Responsibility for Health Educators. (Inquire in Health Sciences Dept.)

HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the application form that can be found on The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. website at www.nchec.org
- Include an official transcript and the application fee with your completed application form
- The non-student application fee is \$215.00
- The student application fee is \$190.00
- The CHES exam is offered in both the Spring and Fall semesters. The next CHES exam will be offered on April 28, 2007.



PRE-SCREENING SERVICE

- If you are not sure you meet the requirements for the CHES exam there is a pre-screening service offered
- Pre-screen forms are accepted from Nov. 1 to Feb. 1 for the Spring exam and May 1 to Aug. 1 for the Fall exam. The form can be downloaded from the website at www.nchec.org.

- The pre-screening fee is \$25.00 and is non-refundable. If eligible, the fee is applied toward the exam registration fee.
- Deficiencies, if any, will be identified and guidance for exam qualification will be provided.



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