The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing’s, Inc. (NCHEC) voluntary professional certification program establishes a national standard for individual health education practitioners. The MCHES is based on the Responsibilities and Competencies that have been verified by a practice analysis. Specifically, the MCHES is hierarchical, meaning that MCHES are competent in all entry-level skills, in addition to more advanced-level skills.

National certification benefits practitioners and the public by:
- Establishing a national standard
- Attesting to individuals’ knowledge and skills
- Assisting employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners
- Promoting continued professional development

The MCHES certification is a career ladder and focused on advanced-level skills to demonstrate leadership roles and helps to elevate the public’s confidence in your practice and delivery of health education and promotion.

What is a MCHES?
A Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) is an individual that has:
1. Met required academic preparation qualifications and worked in the field for a minimum of five years.
2. Successfully passed a competency-based examination.
3. Satisfied the continuing education requirement to maintain the certification.

To enhance the professional practice of health education by promoting and sustaining a credentialed body of health education specialists. To meet this mission, NCHEC certifies health education specialists, promotes professional development, and strengthens professional preparation and practice.
The Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) exam is a competency-based test that measures the possession, application and interpretation related to the Seven Areas of Responsibility; a comprehensive set of Competencies and Sub-competencies defining the role of an advanced-level health education specialist. These Responsibilities were verified through a role delineation and practice analysis process.

The MCHES exam is offered at more than 130 colleges and universities throughout the United States. For a list of exam sites, to apply for the exam visit NCHEC’s Web site at www.nchec.org.

### Application Fees & Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>CHES Fee</th>
<th>Non-CHES Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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<td>Jan.</td>
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<td>Feb.</td>
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<td>Mar.</td>
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Prescreen Deadline

February 1 – August 1

For CHES:

A minimum of the past five (5) continuous years in active status as a Certified Health Education Specialist. (No additional documentation is needed)

For Non-CHES or CHES with fewer than 5 years active status AND five years experience:

A Master’s degree or higher in Health Education, Public Health Education, School Health Education, Community Health Education, etc.,

**OR**

A Master’s degree or higher with an academic transcript reflecting at least 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) of course work in which the Seven Areas of Responsibility of health education specialist were addressed.

**AND**

Five (5) years of documented experience as a health education specialist.

To substantiate experience in the health education field, applicants must submit:

1) Two verification forms from a current or past manager/supervisor, and/or a leader in a health education professional organization
2) A current curriculum vitae/resume

### SEVEN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

**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 and the Profession of Health Education/Promotion

A prescreen service is offered to non-CHES and should ONLY be used if you are not sure you meet the academic requirement for the MCHES exam. The prescreen service will review the academic component of eligibility. For a $25 nonrefundable fee, NCHEC will determine eligibility through review of official academic transcripts.

Prescreen applicants are notified in writing of the review’s outcome. If deemed eligible, the fee is then applied toward the exam cost. If deemed ineligible, course deficiencies will be identified and guidance for qualification will be provided.

For more information on the MCHES exam or eligibility requirements, please visit our Web site at www.nchec.org, or contact 888.624.3248 ext. 16.