Credentialing in Health Education: Professional Development Throughout Your Career

Presented By:

Melissa Opp, MPH, MCHES®
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.
Deputy Executive Director
Discussion Topics

- Overview of NCHEC (what we are and what we are not)
- Explanation of the rationale for the registered trademark of the certification
- Purpose/Need for CHES®/MCHES® Certification in the field
- Examples of benefits of certification (testimonials from the field)
- Overview of testing eligibility and changes coming in 2018 to the process
- Acquiring credits (Cat I and Cat II)
NCHEC’s Mission

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
• Strengthens professional preparation and practice
NCHEC Structure

BOC

DBPD
- responsible for oversight of the recertification and annual renewal procedures
- recommends policies and procedures related to the designation of continuing education providers

DBPPP
- responsible for promoting professional preparation
- works with colleges, universities and accrediting agencies to improve professional preparation programs and promote best practices in health education settings

DBCHES
- responsible for maintaining and evaluating the certification exams
- ensures that NCHEC’s competency testing meets acceptable standards
2017 NCHEC Board of Commissioners
Not all Certifications are Created Equal

Committed to quality standards, best practices, and competence in the health education profession.

The only accredited organization certifying health education specialists
CHES®
Registered Trademark
MCHES®

http://fsymbols.com/computer/trademark/
Health Education and Wellness: A Profession on the Rise

- The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics has projected health educators to have faster than average job growth through 2026: 16%

- NCHEC has seen an average 10% increase in the number of certificants since 2005 = total certified in 2017 is 13,000+

NCHEC’s certification programs are your ticket into this high-demand profession.
2017 CHES® and MCHES®

TOP STATES FOR CHES® and MCHES®

By number certified in 2017

13,487

Total number of active certified individuals in 2017
CHES® and MCHES®: The Right Step for Your Career

Certification:

- Enhances your professional credibility
- Provides you with a personal and professional accomplishment
- Gets recognition from peers and employers
- Expands your professional opportunities
Fact Sheet

NCHEC CERTIFICATIONS: THE GOLD STANDARD

Finding the best and the brightest health education specialists for your team is challenging. You need motivated professionals with proven knowledge and skills to help your team measure up in a changing healthcare environment.

Build a better team: hire CHES® or MCHES®

CHES® and MCHES® are:
- Independent critical thinkers
- Competent on the job
- Up-to-date in knowledge and expertise
- Committed to the profession

“Nearly 90% of certified professionals feel that their CHES® or MCHES® designation shows a strong commitment to their industry and fulfills a sense of personal achievement.”

Terrina Thomas, Director of Community Health and Prevention - Sentara Healthcare

NCHEC CERTIFICATION SNAPSHOT

The CHES® and MCHES® certifications create a national and international standard for specialist practicing at both entry and advanced levels.

- Designed for individuals in the early stages of their career
- Designed for experienced specialists with at least 5 years of experience
- Exam content validated through comprehensive research
- Designed for health education specialists responsible for developing and managing budgets, and applying ethical principles
- Designed for health education specialists responsible for identifying staff development and training needs
- Designed for health education specialists who select participants and deliver training
- Designed for health education specialists who develop and monitor strategic plans
- Designed for health education specialists who identify existing data collection instruments for program evaluation

CHES®: Exam content covers the Seven Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists essential to the entry-level practice and delivery of health education and promotion.

MCHES®: Focuses on advanced skills to demonstrate leadership roles. Specifically, the MCHES® credential is hierarchical, meaning that MCHES® are competent in all entry-level (CHES®) skills, in addition to more advanced-level skills.

Job Settings for CHES® and MCHES®

“CHES is the gold standard that is recognized across the board.”

A. Johnson, Kaiser Permanente

Source: Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis - 2015 (CHES® 01-15)

Visit www.nchec.org for more information.
Job Settings for CHES® and MCHES®

According to the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis (2015), the varied skill-sets of both CHES® and MCHES® are valuable asset in a variety of career settings across the nation and even overseas.

NCHEC certifications prove competency, commitment, versatility, and independent critical thinking skills.

Visit [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org) for more information
Where do CHES® and MCHES® Work?

CHES® signifies versatility!
Contests

2017 CHES®/MCHES® Video Contest

Christen Jackson, CHES®: 1st place submission
Why CHES® Certification?

Visit our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) channel for recent interviews with industry professionals with advice on why you should get certified, and how to begin the process.
CHES® Eligibility

An eligible individual has:

• A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degree from an accredited institution, AND

• A major in: health education, community health education, public health education, school health education, OR

• 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) specific to course work related to areas of responsibility and competencies
Prescreening/Review Service

Optional Eligibility Service:

- Transcript Review
- Identify needed coursework
- Fee ($25)
- Questions, contact admin@nchec.org

www.nchec.org/eligibility
Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES®) Credential

CHES®

- Minimum of the past 5 continuous years active status

NON-CHES / CHES® < 5YRS ACTIVE STATUS

- Master’s degree or higher in Health Education OR Master’s degree or higher with transcript reflecting 25 semester hours addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility

- 5 years experience as a health education specialist

- CV/Resumé

- 2 letters of recommendation
The CHES® & MCHES® Exams

Current Paper-based Administration:

• Competency-based pencil- and-paper (PBT) exam
• 165 multiple-response questions
• Identifies each Area of Responsibility
• Offered at over 130 testing locations nationwide
• Study companion available
• Last PBT version will be April 2018
• Registration opened on Nov 1st
Beginning October 2018 CHES® and MCHES® examinations will change to CBT at proctor vendor sites.
Important Dates:

- First CBT exam October 2018
- Registration will open on May 1, 2018
- Registration will close on Aug 31, 2018
- October 2018 window will run from

  Thursday October 12th - Saturday October 21st (10 day window)

Detailed FAQs on www.nchec.org/cbt
Exam Application Process

Exam Application and Approval will remain through the NCHEC office

- All exam applications and transcripts will be reviewed by the NCHEC Exam Coordinator
- Pre-screen process available
- Apply early and schedule your exam early!
## CBT Fee Schedule and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2018 CHES® Exam Window: October 11 - 20, 2018</th>
<th>Non-student Fee</th>
<th>*Student Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bird Registration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: 5/1/18 thru 5/31/18</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Registration</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline: 6/1/18 thru 7/31/18</td>
<td>$320</td>
<td>$270</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final (Late) Registration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline: 8/1/18 thru 8/31/18</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>$320</td>
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</table>

### CHES® EXAM SCHEDULE: April 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2019 CHES® Exam Window: April 11 - 20, 2019</th>
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<td>Deadline: 12/1/18 thru 1/31/19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final (Late) Registration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline: 2/1/19 thru 2/28/19</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>$320</td>
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# CBT Fee Schedule and Deadlines

## October 2018 MCHES® Exam

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Window: October 11 - 20, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Bird Registration</strong></td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>$285</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Registration</strong></td>
<td>$385</td>
<td>$335</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final (Late) Registration</strong></td>
<td>$435</td>
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<td><strong>Final (Late) Registration</strong></td>
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<td>$385</td>
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</table>
Prometric State-of-the-Art Test Center Locations

Locate by Zip Code: www.Prometric.com/nchec
Scheduling your CBT exam

Register Early and Schedule Early:

Schedule your exam date and time with Prometric [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) or calling Prometric 800 number
The CHES® & MCHES® Examinations

Content is the Same

3 hours to complete

✓ Same multiple choice format
✓ Flag questions and return for review or to change answer
✓ Scratch paper available
✓ Noise cancelling headphones provided
CHES® Exam Scoring

- Passing Standards will remain the same
- Instant Pass or Fail Notice
- Official results with certificates will be mailed 4-6 weeks after the exam window closes
• Passing Standards will remain the same
• Instant Pass or Fail Notice is NOT available at this time
• Official results with certificates will be mailed 4-6 weeks after the exam window closes
Additional CBT Information

Visit: https://www.nchec.org/CBT
Types of continuing education contact hours:

**Category I**
- Events offered by providers
- Pre-approved by NCHEC
- Minimum 45 CECH

**Category II**
- Events offered by providers
- Maximum 30 CECH
- Not pre-approved by NCHEC

**MCHES® advanced**
- MCHES® must earn 30 CECH directly related to the advanced-level Sub-competencies from Category I and/or II
Search Category I – Continuing Education

Continuing Education Credit Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search CE Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topics:</td>
<td>— All Topics —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providers:</td>
<td>— All Providers —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Cost:</td>
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<tr>
<td>CECH Cost:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CECH Approved:</td>
<td>— All CECH Approved —</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced CECH Approved:</td>
<td>— All Advanced CECH Approved —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area:</td>
<td>— All Areas —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Month:</td>
<td>— All Months —</td>
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![Search screenshot](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soft Studies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>CECCH</td>
<td>ACE</td>
<td>CECH Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicing Cross-Cultural Communication - The Bamboo Branch Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Public Health Continuing Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Weeks to Genetic Awareness</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan Public Health Training Center Office of Public Health Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web-based</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology for Non-Epidemiologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan Public Health Training Center Office of Public Health Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web-based</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Access for Persons with Disabilities Part I: Persons with Physical and Sensory Dis</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-Based Participatory Research: A Partnership Approach for Public Health</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Public Health Training Center Office of Public Health Practice</td>
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</table>

![Soft Studies screenshot](image)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHES/MCHES CECH CLAIM FORM - Section 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program/Event Title:</strong> Testing ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program/Event Date:</strong> 2/20/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program/Event Sponsor:</strong> Testing ABC Sponsor</td>
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<td><strong>Current Status:</strong> Incomplete</td>
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<td><strong>Last Modified:</strong> 2/20/2017 2:56:51 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have completed the following type of activity (choose only one) and attached the documentation indicated in support of my claim:

**Attendance At Professional Meetings**

- [ ] I have included (check one):
  - Certificate of Attendance with Hours Awarded
  - Highlighted Meeting Schedule

**Self-Study**

- [ ] I have included a Certificate of Completion with Hours Awarded AND Outline of Module

**I have completed an Independent Study (1 CECH per contact hours assigned by the provider) (entry and advanced)**

Available 2018
**Examples of Category II Credits**

**Example of Category II Credits for BOTH CHES® and MCHES®**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Presentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- I presented at a Professional Meeting (2 CECH per hour of Instruction) <em>(entry and advanced)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ___ I have included Proof of Presentation, Indicating the Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I authored/presented a poster (1 CECH per Poster Session) <em>(entry and advanced)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ___ I have included Proof of the Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of Category II Credits for MCHES®**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administration and Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- I developed an agency/program budget (3 CECH per Budget) <em>(advanced only)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ___ I have included a Letter from my Supervisor or Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I managed Program Budgets (4 CECH per Budget) <em>(advanced only)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ___ I have included a Letter from my Supervisor or Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demonstrating specified levels of knowledge, skills, or ability not only at the time of initial certification but throughout an individual’s professional career. The NCHEC recertification requirements demonstrate continued competence.
CHES® /MCHES® Continuing Education

Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH): 75 hours are required for the five-year recertification

- Continuing Competence Assessment for Recertification for new certificants beginning in April 2019 and existing CHES®/MCHES® for their next recertification cycle after 2019
- Easy assessment process – no retest necessary
Social Network Connections

The Official NCHEC CHES/MCHES Group

ches.mches

NCHEC

@NCHEC_updates
Start your certification journey today!

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303, Whitehall, PA 18052-5642
888-NCHEC4U (888-624-3248)

http://www.nchec.org
mopp@nchec.org