Do you want to help people lead healthier lives? You can learn what it takes to become a certified health educator.

Program Description

The BS in health education and health promotion provides students a pathway for becoming a certified health education specialist through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (https://www.nchec.org/).

Working alongside clinicians, health agency directors and community leaders, health education specialists are catalysts for improving health for individuals and communities. The program provides professional preparation in population-based approaches to improve health outcomes, including school and community health education. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree in health education and health promotion gain foundational knowledge in health promotion program planning, implementation, evaluation, health education and health advocacy. These skills can be applied to society's most pressing health challenges, like improving the food and built environments to promote health, providing sexual health education, and preventing substance abuse, violence and injuries.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus, ASU@Lake Havasu or online
- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 117 - College Algebra
- **Math Intensity:** Moderate

Required Courses (Major Map)
Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Additional Requirements:

The Downtown campus is available to all students who meet university admission standards.

The West campus is only available to students who will be first time freshmen as defined as those who have earned 12 college credit hours or less at the time of admission.

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request for information about how to change a major to this program.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use the Transfer Map search to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save
time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st-century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. Students in this major will satisfy some major requirements by participating in study abroad learning. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities

Growing awareness of how healthy lifestyles and environments influence our health has led to a greater emphasis on preventing disease and managing chronic diseases effectively. Health education and health promotion professionals fill a critical role in the new vision for health and health care as they teach individuals how to stay well by living healthy lifestyles, and they help mobilize communities to create healthy environments through policy, advocacy and environmental change. As the need for innovative approaches to improving health outcomes becomes increasingly clear, the demand for health education and health promotion professionals will increase as well. Health promotion professionals work in various environments based on the industry in which they are employed.

Based on a random sample of community health job advertisements (September, 2017), health professionals with the CHES credential earn up to a 47% higher salary than health professionals without it. As of 2019, the American Medical Association has approved certified health education specialists for new insurance billing qualifications that will expand the practice even further. In addition to working to change policies and environments to promote health, and to educate communities, health education specialists can work as clinical educators, counseling individuals to adopt new health behaviors. The health education specialist pathway offers growth opportunities, as well, as CHES are eligible to become master certified health education specialists after five years of practice, and MCHES are eligible to become certified diabetes educators.

Graduates of this degree program often pursue careers in wellness and health promotion in such environments as:

- colleges and universities
- community health agencies
• hospitals and clinical settings
• insurance companies
• private health care organizations
• schools
• state and county health departments
• voluntary health organizations
• wellness centers
• work site wellness and health promotion

They may also pursue further graduate study in such fields as:

• medicine and dentistry (with additional elective sciences)
• occupational therapy
• physical therapy
• physician’s assistant
• public health
• community health
• health education
• health promotion
• social work
• health psychology

Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>$53,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Worker</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>$38,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Specialist</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>$41,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness and Wellness Coordinator</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>$81,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Support Worker (General)</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>$37,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Practitioner</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>$73,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Professor</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>$97,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services Director</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>$64,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

☀ Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

Contact Information

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