EXAM APPLICATION HANDBOOK

October 2020

Please read this handbook in its entirety
BEFORE completing the application

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HEALTH EDUCATION CREDENTIALING, INC.
1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303 • Whitehall, PA 18052-5642
Phone: 888-624-3248 • Fax: 800-813-0727
Website: nchec.org

Edited 04/16/2020
Please read this handbook in its entirety BEFORE completing the application.
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) would like to thank you for considering certification in the field of Health Education and Promotion. Recognition as a nationally certified health education specialist (CHES®) will assist you in whichever career setting you choose. Certification defines your commitment to the field of Health Education and Promotion and positions you to continue your professional development while upholding the national and international accreditation standards that our credentials attest to. Certification is a significant achievement, and validates the knowledge and skills you have obtained through your academic preparation.

NCHEC MISSION:
The mission of NCHEC is 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.

QUICK CONTACT
For general information about certification or exam applications:
admin@nchec.org

To schedule, reschedule or cancel an exam appointment you MUST:
1) Notify Prometric (prometric.com/nchec or call 800-727-8490.)
2) Notify NCHEC at tcole@nchec.org or call 888-624-3248.

For test site emergency closure information, visit prometric.com/sitestatus

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ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC), founded in 1988 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, develops and administers national competency-based examinations to entry- and advanced-level health education specialists.

BENEFITS OF NATIONAL CERTIFICATION THROUGH NCHEC
NCHEC’s voluntary professional certification program establishes a national standard for individual health education practitioners. It is based on the Seven Areas of Responsibility; a comprehensive set of Competencies and Sub-competencies that have been verified by a job practice analysis. It differs from state and local certifications and registries in that the requirements do not vary from one locale to another.

National certification benefits practitioners and the public by:
- Establishing a national standard of practice for all health education specialists
- Attesting to the individual health education specialists knowledge and skills
- Assisting employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners
- Developing a sense of pride and accomplishment among certified health education specialists
- Promoting continued professional development for health education specialists
A CHES® is an individual that has:

1. Met required academic preparation qualifications

2. Successfully passed a competency-based examination administered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

3. Satisfied the continuing education requirement to maintain the national credential

Certified Health Education Specialists practice within varied settings across the country and overseas. The verified skill-sets of health education specialists are a valuable asset in a variety of career settings, and denote competency, commitment, versatility, and independent critical thinking skills.

CHES® EXAMINATION DESCRIPTION:

The Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) examination is a competency-based tool used to measure possession, application and interpretation of knowledge in the Seven Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists delineated by the most current US-based practice analysis study. The exam reflects the entry-level Sub-competencies of these Areas of Responsibility as found in A Competency Based Framework for Health Education Specialists 2015.

Consisting of 165 multiple-choice questions (150 scored and 15 pilot tested), the CHES® examination is offered only in computer-based format at more than 400 Prometric test centers worldwide. Candidates are allotted 3 hours to complete the examination questions. Total seat time at Prometric Test Centers, including tutorials and surveys, is 3.5 hours.

NONDISCRIMINATION/FAIRNESS

NCHEC does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, or other legally protected status.

NCHEC’s adheres to a formal application review process in accordance with established criteria. This process provides assurance to the public that the eligibility review is impartial and fair. For more information on NCHEC’s Nondiscrimination/Fairness policy and procedures regarding this policy, contact NCHEC at 888.624.3248 or email cnarh@nchec.org.
CHES® EXAM FEES

CHES® EXAM FEE SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

The CHES® exam is offered in both the spring and fall (April and October) for a period of ten days. For October 2020, the exam window has been extended to allow for social distancing measures at test centers. Visit nchec.org/exam for future exam dates. The current exam schedule is as follows:

October CHES® Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Testing Window: October 15-November 3, 2020</th>
<th>Non-student Fee*</th>
<th>Student Fee*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: 5/1/2020 - 5/31/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Registration</td>
<td>$320</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: 6/1/2020 - 7/31/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Late) Registration</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>$320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline: 8/1/2020 - 8/31/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Fee Discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register before 5/31/2020 to receive the full student discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fee is determined by the date of payment.

Fees listed include a $100 nonrefundable processing fee for those who do not meet the eligibility requirements or choose to withdraw from the exam.

Applications must be submitted or postmarked on or before the final deadline dates.

STUDENT FEE DISCOUNT*

Qualification for the student fee is determined by enrollment status at the date you apply for the exam. Enrollment in graduate or undergraduate courses of 9 or more semester credits (12 or more quarter hours) qualifies an applicant for the student rate. Graduate programs considered “full time” at less than 9 credits require documentation of full time status as defined by your institution. REGISTER BEFORE 5/31/2020 to receive the FULL STUDENT DISCOUNT.

PAYMENT METHODS

NCHEC accepts VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. Payment must be made at the time of application. If paying by mail, NCHEC will also accept U.S. checks or money orders. For questions about application payments, contact admin@nchec.org.
APPLYING FOR THE CHES® EXAM

CHES® EXAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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, master’s 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.”
  - An official transcript that reflects at least 25 semester hours or 37 quarter hours of coursework (with a grade “C” or better) with specific preparation addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility and Competency for Health Education Specialists. (see Eligibility Guidelines)

OR

- A maximum of 6 semester hours/8 quarter hours may be from other courses that include elements contained in the Seven Areas of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists
  - Course descriptions and syllabi may be provided to determine if courses are eligible.

Note: minimum eligibility is a Bachelor’s degree. Associates degree-level coursework that has been accepted by a four-year or higher, degree-granting university can be counted toward eligibility for the CHES® exam.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Applicants for the CHES® exam will have at least 25 semester hours/37 quarter hours of coursework (with a grade of C or better) with specific preparation addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibilities and Competencies for Health Education Specialists. The following guidance is offered to applicants without an earned degree in health education seeking to qualify for the CHES® exam based on the 25 hours of coursework requirement:

- A minimum of 12 semester hours/18 quarter hours must be from process courses that clearly align with the Seven Areas of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists
- A maximum of 9 semester hours/14 quarter hours may be from topic-focused courses that include elements contained in the Seven Areas of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists

PRESCREEN SERVICE

If you are unsure of your eligibility for the CHES® exam, there is an optional “prescreen” service to provide an eligibility determination. This option should ONLY be used if you are not sure you meet the eligibility requirements for the CHES® exam. If your prescreen application is found eligible, the $25 prescreen fee will be deducted from the final exam application fee and additional instructions will be emailed to you. If ineligible, course deficiencies will be identified and guidance will be provided.

If you are interested in taking advantage of the prescreening service visit our Web site, nchec.org/exam and apply for the prescreen online. You can also contact NCHEC to receive a paper prescreen form.

PRESCREEN SCHEDULE:

April Cycle: November 1 – January 31
October Cycle: May 1 – July 31

HEALTH EDUCATION CODE OF ETHICS

NCHEC adheres to the Health Education Code of Ethics established by the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations (CNHEO). See http://cnheo.org/ethics-of-the-profession.html. This policy serves as a central guide and reference for all Health Education Specialists* in ensuring their day to day activities are in line with professional conduct and industry standards.

*By applying for certification you are attesting to reviewing and abiding by the Health Education Code of Ethics.
SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY

We recommend online applications for expediency and allowing the applicant to track the status of the application.

To apply for the CHES® exam, visit NCHEC.org/ches.

Reminder: Enter your first and last name on the application EXACTLY as it should appear on the CHES® certificate. It is your responsibility to notify NCHEC of any changes in name and/or address before taking the exam.

WHAT YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

• Completed application form

• Official transcript reflecting school name(s), degree(s), date(s) awarded and all completed course-work (application cannot be processed without a transcript). If sent separately, transcripts should be submitted no later than 30 days after application submission and prior to the final deadline or you will be subject to increased exam fees.

• Overseas transcripts MUST be translated into American credits through a transcript translation service before submitting your application for review.

• Application fee (The application fee INCLUDES a $100 non-refundable processing fee if the candidate is found ineligible or withdraws from the exam)

• Advisor Letter (This document is only needed if you are currently a student.) The letter would need to be on school letterhead and contain your name, projected graduation date, degree program and that you are currently a full time student.

Exam applications, university transcripts and any additional supporting documentation become the property of NCHEC. These items will not be returned to the exam applicant or forwarded to a third party. Note: falsification of any documentation may result in suspension or revocation of the credential or denial of eligibility for future exams.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Final application deadline/April exam: February 29
Final application deadline/October exam: August 31

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

Incomplete applications will not be processed until all necessary information is received by NCHEC, including payment. Exam fees are not refundable for incomplete applications. NCHEC is not responsible for missing information, such as transcripts sent separately. All documentation must be submitted by final deadline. Delays may result in an automatic transfer to the next exam date with an additional $125 transfer fee. Please be sure to include all items at the time of application.

MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION

It is the applicant’s responsibility to notify NCHEC of any changes in address or contact information. Address changes can be made by visiting www.nchec.org, and logging on with your username and password, or by contacting NCHEC staff at admin@nchec.org or 888.624.3248. Please note that if changes are not reported to NCHEC prior to your exam appointment, you may not be able to gain entry to the exam.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

For CHES® non-student applicants:
Transcript showing a minimum of a bachelor’s degree with either a specific health education major OR with 25 semester credits specific to the Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists.

☐ Application Form
☐ Application Fee

For CHES® student applicants:
Transcript showing a minimum of a bachelor’s degree with either a specific health education major OR with 25 semester credits specific to the Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists.

☐ Application Form
☐ Application Fee
☐ Advisor Letter
NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Applicants who have been determined to have fulfilled the eligibility requirements for the CHES® exam will receive an “Authorization to Test” (ATT) letter. This notification will be sent to your registered email address, and will include your Eligibility ID Number, which is necessary to schedule your examination. You can schedule your appointment online at prometric.com/nchec or by calling the Prometric support line at 800-727-8490.

IF YOU ARE INELIGIBLE FOR THE CHES® EXAM

Ineligible applicants will be notified by email. If you are found ineligible to take the CHES® exam, your application fee will be refunded, minus the nonrefundable application processing fee of $100. You can re-apply for the examination in the future, should you complete the coursework necessary for eligibility. You do have the right to appeal your denial of eligibility.

FILING AN APPEAL REGARDING ELIGIBILITY

1. An appeal will only be considered if postmarked, emailed or faxed within thirty (30) calendar days following the email date in which the Appellant was notified of the adverse decision.
2. NCHEC strongly suggests appeals be sent by certified mail. Appeals by facsimile or email are also accepted.
3. A fee of twenty-five dollars ($25) must be paid and is not refundable if the appeal is denied.
4. An appeal must be submitted in writing (preferably typewritten) to the NCHEC Executive Director who will, in turn, submit it to the appropriate NCHEC decision making body. The appeal must contain the original notification from NCHEC showing the date of the adverse decision.
5. The appeal should identify the adverse decision being appealed and explicitly state the reasons for the appeal. The appeal shall set forth any new or additional information to be considered. To expedite the appeal process, applicants are encouraged to include course descriptions, syllabi and any other pertinent information about specific courses in which the major emphasis was health education. Support documents provided by applicants will become property of NCHEC and not be returned to appellants.
6. The only additional information that may be submitted after the initial filing is that which is requested by the appropriate NCHEC decision making body.

Please visit this link for the full appeal policy http://www.nchec.org/ches-exam-eligibility.

IF YOU RECEIVE 90-DAY ELIGIBILITY

90 Day Eligibility is offered to students scheduled to graduate within 90 days of an exam testing window. If you are 90-Day eligible, written verification from a faculty advisor assuring that you will complete all degree requirements within 90 days of your exam, as well as an official transcript showing a minimum of 25 semester-hours relating to the Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists needs to be submitted.

90-Day Eligibility Reminder: Test scores will not be released until proof of graduation is received with an official transcript showing degree conferred, or a copy of your diploma.

REQUESTS FOR TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Deadline for requests 8/31/2020

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), NCHEC will strive to ensure that no individual with a disability is deprived of the opportunity to take the examination solely by reason of that disability.

A candidate who has a disability may request accommodations and arrangements to take the examination. Such requests must be in writing and accompany the application. Verification of disability and statement of assistance needed must be included. Documentation by a competent individual (e.g. physician) of a specific disability must be submitted with the application and completed Testing Accommodations Form. (See Appendix C) All requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval. Test center personnel will be prepared to handle pre-approved accommodations.

Note: Eligible candidates may NOT schedule a test time/location through Prometric until all accommodations documents have been submitted and approved by the NCHEC exam coordinator. All requests for testing accommodations must be received by application final deadline.

Applicants who have been determined to have fulfilled the eligibility requirements for the CHES® exam will receive an “Authorization to Test” (ATT) letter. This notification will be sent to your registered email address, and will include your Eligibility ID Number, which is necessary to schedule your examination. You can schedule your appointment online at prometric.com/nchec or by calling the Prometric support line at 800-727-8490.
SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM APPOINTMENT

NCHEC certification exams are administered in a computer-based format through Prometric, NCHEC’s test delivery vendor, at technology-enabled testing centers across the United States, as well as additional global sites. Prometric is a leader in computer-based-test administration with best-in-class testing facilities and a trained, fully certified testing staff.

Once you have been found eligible to sit for the CHES® exam you will receive an “Authorization to Test” (ATT) letter which will include your Eligibility ID Number. With this Eligibility ID number, you can then schedule your appointment online at prometric.com/nchec or by calling the Prometric support line at 800-727-8490.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule an exam appointment right away to obtain a preferred test date, time and location. Do not wait until the exam testing window opens to schedule a time slot, as appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Should a candidate be unable to schedule an exam appointment within the exam testing window, fees will not be refunded or transferred.

When scheduling your appointment with Prometric, please be prepared to submit the following information:

- First and last name exactly as it appears on your ATT, which should match the unexpired, government-issued ID you will use as proof of identity at the testing center.

**NOTE:** If your ID does not **EXACTLY** match the first and last name on your application, **YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE EXAM.**

- Your Eligibility ID number as listed on your ATT.

Candidates will receive an email from Prometric confirming their exam appointment day/time and confirmation number. **Your appointment confirmation number will be required to confirm, reschedule/change, or cancel your exam appointment.** Note that your confirmation number will be different from the Eligibility ID number. It is the responsibility of the candidate to confirm the correct date and time of the scheduled exam appointment. NCHEC will not be able to reschedule missed appointments.

Testing accommodations must be approved in advance by NCHEC staff. (See Appendix C: Testing Accommodations Form, page 20). **Eligible candidates may NOT schedule a test time/location through Prometric until all accommodations documents have been submitted and approved by the NCHEC exam coordinator.** All requests for testing accommodations must be received by application final deadline. After receiving advance approval for accommodations by NCHEC, call Prometric at 800-967-1139 to schedule your appointment. If your only accommodation is additional time, you may schedule online at prometric.com/nchec.

CHANGES TO YOUR EXAM APPOINTMENT

RESCHEDULING YOUR APPOINTMENT

We understand that schedules can change. However, this option is available and intended to be used only if you need to change your appointment time within the same testing window. Please note that rescheduling is NOT the same as transferring your exam cycle.

- Rescheduling your testing appointment can be completed by contacting Prometric 30 or more **calendar days prior** to your scheduled appointment with no fee.
- Rescheduling done within 2 to 29 **calendar days prior** to your scheduled appointment will require a $30 rescheduling fee paid directly to Prometric.
- Requests less than 2 **calendar days prior** to the scheduled appointment will not be granted and will be treated as a No-Show (see page 10).
If a candidate is unable to test during the scheduled exam testing window and fails to reschedule, fees will not be refunded except in the case of a medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, supporting documentation will need to be supplied to NCHEC within 30 days after your scheduled exam test date.

CANCELLING/WITHDRAWING

This option is available and intended to be used if you are not anticipating taking the exam in the future. Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing directly to NCHEC. Request must be received no later than the final registration deadline of 8/31/2020. You will be refunded the exam fee minus the $100 nonrefundable processing fee. If NCHEC does not receive notification that you have withdrawn/cancelled before the final registration deadline, candidates will automatically be considered a “No-Show” and all registration fees are forfeited. If you have scheduled an exam appointment, you must cancel this appointment through Prometric as well.

DEFERRING/TRANSFERRING

This option is available for candidates who wish to reschedule/transfer/defer to the next exam testing window.

Step 1. If you have a scheduled appointment, you must first cancel your appointment through the Prometric website portal or hotline, before the final registration deadline of 8/31/2020.

Step 2. You must then submit a written request (email acceptable) directly to NCHEC, no later than the final registration deadline for the exam testing window in which you applied or registered. The fee to transfer/defer to the next exam testing window is $125.

Important note: Please make sure to follow this two-part process carefully for a successful transfer. If both steps are not completed within the necessary timeframe, candidates will move into the “No-Show” category, as outlined below, and registration fees are forfeited.

Refunds are only available for the exam cycle in which you first applied. Refunds on previously transferred exam appointments are not available.

IF YOU DO NOT KEEP THE APPOINTMENT (NO-SHOW)

If you do not take the exam on the scheduled date, arrive to the testing center more than 30 minutes after your scheduled exam time, did not cancel or reschedule within the required time frame, or never scheduled an appointment, you are considered a “No-Show.” As NCHEC must pay for each candidates scheduled seat, you would forfeit all exam registrations fees as a No-Show. Please make sure to schedule your appointment ahead and arrive on time to avoid becoming a No-Show.

“No-Show” candidates can register for the next exam testing window for an additional $150 rescheduling fee. This reduced fee is only valid for the next scheduled exam date: thereafter, full registration is required. NCHEC will send new registration instructions for the next scheduled exam testing window within 30 days from the closing of the current exam testing window. Unexpected circumstances will be considered and fee waiver requests will be reviewed for medical or personal emergencies as described below.

IN CASE OF PERSONAL OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY

For the purpose of the NCHEC certification programs, medical or personal emergencies are defined as unplanned events affecting the candidate or immediate family member(s) (spouse, child or parent), which arise within five days of the scheduled exam appointment and prevent the candidate from taking the exam, or from rescheduling or cancelling an exam appointment.

An event that can be anticipated cannot be considered a medical or personal emergency. A candidate’s inability to take the exam due to work commitments or insufficient or inappropriate preparation cannot not considered a personal emergency.
# SUMMARY OF CANCELLATION/TRANSFER/RESCHEDULE POLICIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Refund or additional fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reschedule</strong></td>
<td>Changed your exam date within the exam testing window</td>
<td>2 days or more before scheduled exam date</td>
<td>30 or more days: $0 2-29 days: $30 (Paid directly to Prometric)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cancel or Withdraw</strong></td>
<td>Withdrew from your exam</td>
<td>On or before Late Application Deadline</td>
<td>Full exam fee less $100 non-refundable application fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Withdrew from your exam</td>
<td>After Late Application Deadline</td>
<td>No refund. Forfeit exam fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Defer or Transfer</strong></td>
<td>Transferred to next exam cycle</td>
<td>By final registration deadline for the testing window in which you applied or registered</td>
<td>No refund. Additional fee of $125 payable in next cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Show</strong></td>
<td>No-Show candidate</td>
<td>Did not appear for exam on scheduled date</td>
<td>No refund. Forfeit exam fees. Can retest in next exam cycle only for $150 payable at next cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Transferred to the next exam cycle after the final registration deadline for the exam testing window in which you applied or registered.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrived at the test center more than 30 minutes late</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Did not have proper identification</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Did not schedule an exam appointment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency</strong></td>
<td>Medical or personal emergency</td>
<td>Case by case basis</td>
<td>Transfer to next exam with proper documentation; fee may be waived in extenuating situations</td>
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</table>
PREPARING FOR THE CHES® EXAM

EXAM FORMAT AND DURATION

The CHES® exam consists of 165 multiple choice (four-response) questions; 15 of the items are used as pilot items and do not contribute to the final score on each exam. The candidate is not told which items are being piloted and which items are being scored. Each question contains four possible multiple choice answers; only one answer is correct. Exams are delivered only in a computer based format available at Prometric test centers. Candidates are allotted 3 hours to complete the exam. Considering the tutorial, consent and post exam survey, the duration of the exam appointment is a maximum of 3 hours and 30 minutes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLOCATION OF TEST CENTER TIME</th>
<th>CHES® Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification Sign in</td>
<td>2 minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality Agreement</td>
<td>4 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Tutorial</td>
<td>11 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(180 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>12 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion Notice</td>
<td>1 minute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each section shows a countdown timer on the screen, and each section is separate and time-independent. Minutes do not roll over. For instance, if a candidate spends less time in the introduction, extra minutes are not rolled over to the exam portion. For your convenience, Appendix B provides the text of the Non-Disclosure/Confidentiality Agreement you will be asked to agree to prior to taking the exam. Please review it prior to your exam date so that you do not require more than two minutes to respond, as your test will timeout and may not be able to be restarted.

EXAM CONTENT

The CHES® examination is based on the entry-level Areas of Responsibilities, Competencies and Sub-competencies delineated by the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis (HESPA) 2015 Seven Areas of Responsibility. The exam is weighted in the following Seven Areas of Responsibility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seven Areas of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists</th>
<th>% Questions on CHES® Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess Needs, Resources, and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Ed/Promotion</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicate, Promote and Advocate for Health and the Profession of Health Ed/Promotion</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCE MATERIALS


STUDY GROUPS

You may want to contact the nearest college or university with a health education department or visit our Web site at nchec.org/ches-studying-for-exams to determine if there is a CHES® exam review session offered near you. It is important to remember that the exam is national in scope. You are encouraged to keep your resources broad and use your own text books as well as others. Remember that the study guide should not be your sole source of information.
WHAT TO EXPECT ON TEST DAY

EXAM IDENTIFICATION AND PROMETRIC TEST CENTER REQUIREMENTS

The NCHEC certification exams are administered in highly secure Prometric testing centers. All exam candidates will be required to provide proof of identity with an unexpired original government-issued photo ID with signature, such as a driver’s license, a passport or military ID. The name and photo on the primary ID must exactly match the name on the candidate’s Authorization To Test notice (ATT).

Prometric security protocols and a video regarding what to expect on test day can be viewed at www.prometric.com.

On exam day: Arrive at the test center at least 30 minutes before your scheduled testing time to check in. If you arrive late, you will not be permitted into the testing room, and your exam fees will not be refunded. You must have an acceptable form of identification upon arrival.

Items not permitted in the Testing Room: books, papers, calculators, reference material, food (including beverages), cell phones, electronic and smart devices, smoking or visitors. A dry erase board for making notations during the exam will be provided by Prometric staff.

Note: calculators are provided within the computer testing device; candidates may not bring their own calculators. Prior to taking the examination, you will be asked to confirm your agreement that you will not disclose, reproduce or in any way distribute exam items. (See Appendix B)

SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

Prometric staff will escort you to your testing station. There will be a timer on you screen that will show you the time remaining in your test session. Prometric will supply you with noise-reducing headphones.

TUTORIAL

Before you begin testing, you can walk through a 11-minute tutorial on how to use the system. This tutorial time is not part of your testing time.

IRREGULARITIES

Irregularities observed or suspected by Prometric staff may result in your removal from participation in the test or invalidation of your score. NCHEC reserves the right to investigate each incident of misconduct or irregularity. Prometric has outlined guidelines for conduct in their test centers on their web site: prometric.com.

WEATHER & LOCAL OR NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

If there is severe weather or a local or national emergency near the testing center, check online at prometric.com/sitestatus for updates on closures. In the event that Prometric cancels an exam due to severe weather or a local or national emergency, you will not be assessed a rescheduling fee.

SECURITY

No part of the exam may be copied or reproduced in part or in whole by any means whatsoever, including memorization. Candidates may not solicit questions or discuss items that were on previous exams with other NCHEC candidates or individuals who hold the CHES® credential. Candidates are required to sign an affirmation and agreement statement on the application and a confidentiality agreement at the time of taking the exam. Violation of the affirmation and agreement may result in suspension or revocation of the CHES® credential from those who have received it or suspension and/or denial of eligibility for future exams.

EXAMINATION GRIEVANCE

Any complaints regarding testing conditions or irregularities must be submitted in writing within two weeks after the examination date. We value constructive feedback to help us provide a comfortable exam environment.
NCHEC has used the Modified Angoff method and variations of this method to set the passing point for the CHES® examination. The Modified Angoff method is the most widely used criterion-referenced passing point technique within the credentialing industry and is based on the judgment of content experts regarding the expected test performance of candidates who are just qualified. This criterion-referenced procedure sets the performance standard before the examination is taken by candidates. Therefore, this standard is independent of examinee performance. Essentially, this method allows subject-matter experts to establish a consistent level of knowledge that is expected of professionals who are just qualified for certification. There is also no penalty for guessing on an item on the exam. The results are reviewed by NCHEC and a final standard is set. This standard is upheld on every subsequent form of the CHES® examination using a statistical process called equating. Although all examination forms are based on the same test blueprint and are carefully constructed to have similar difficulty levels, slight differences in difficulty are unavoidable. To ensure that candidates who take an easier or more difficult form of the examination do not have an advantage or disadvantage, equating is used to adjust the passing point for the difficulty level of the form.

For more information about NCHEC exams and pass rates, please visit https://www.nchec.org/ches-exam-background-and-scoring

NOTE: Candidates who applied under the 90-Day eligibility option must provide proof of graduation before they will receive exam scores, certificate, or certification number.

IF YOU DO NOT PASS THE EXAM

If you do not pass the CHES® exam, you may not chose to retest during the current exam cycle. However, you may retake it in the next consecutive exam cycle, at a reduced rate. This reduced rate is only available to you in the next consecutive exam cycle. If you chose to retest in a cycle beyond the next available exam, you will need to pay the full exam fee and resubmit your application. There is no limit to the amount of times you can take the CHES® examination. Remediation after multiple unsuccessful attempts is highly encouraged.
CHES® CERTIFICATION

By passing the exam, you become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) and earn the honor of using this credential. Each CHES® will receive a certificate suitable for framing. A wallet-sized identification card is available to print through your online account; a hard copy is available upon request. If you applied under the 90-Day option you must submit proof of graduation before you can become certified and receive your exam results.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF CREDENTIAL

After receiving official notification of passing the CHES® examination, the designation (CHES®) may be used only as long as certification remains valid and in good standing. Certified individuals must comply with all re-certification requirements to maintain use of the respective credential and its associated acronym. Certified individuals may not make misleading, deceptive, or confusing statements regarding their certification status. If an individual allows their certification to fall into lapsed/expired status, he or she must immediately discontinue use of the associated acronym and is prohibited from stating or implying certification is current.

MAINTAINING THE CERTIFICATION

The CHES® certification is valid for a period of five years. All CHES® must renew their credential annually, and recertify every fifth year. Renewal requires paying the annual renewal fee. Recertification requires accruing a total of 75 continuing education contact hours by the end of the fifth year. It is recommended that CHES® accumulate a minimum of 15 hours each year. A Renewal/Recertification Policies and Procedures booklet is available on our website.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

By applying for certification or recertification, Health Education Specialists recognize the authority of NCHEC to apply the Health Education Code of Ethics (see section below) to those certified. If disciplinary actions are recommended as a result of an ethics investigation, the accused will be given full due process, including an appeal.

A Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) certification may be suspended or revoked for reason(s) deemed appropriate by NCHEC including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Falsification of the certification application
2. Falsification of any information requested by NCHEC
3. Misrepresentation of certification status
4. Cheating (or reasonable evidence of intent to cheat) on the examination
5. The conviction or plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere to a felony in a matter related to the practice of, or qualifications for, professional activity
6. Gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of professional services, or other unethical or unprofessional conduct based on demonstrable, verifiable, and serious violations of the Health Education Code of Ethics

HEALTH EDUCATION CODE OF ETHICS

The health education profession is dedicated to excellence in the practice of promoting individual, family, and organizational and community health. The Health Education Code of Ethics provides a basis of the shared values of practicing health education specialists. The responsibility of all CHES® is to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct and to encourage the ethical behavior of all those with whom they work.

Please refer to the full Health Education Code of Ethics on nchec.org/code-of-ethics for more information on all Articles of Responsibility.
ETHICS VIOLATIONS

1. Complaints regarding possible ethics violations of a CHES®/MCHES® must be submitted in writing to the NCHEC Executive Director. The complaint must include the accuser’s name and contact information. Individuals bringing complaints are not entitled to any relief or damages by virtue of this process, although they will receive notice of the actions taken.

2. Complaints will undergo an administrative review of documentation by the Disciplinary Committee of the NCHEC Board of Commissioners within 30 days of receipt by NCHEC to determine if the alleged action falls within the scope of disciplinary policy and warrants investigation.

3. The accused will be notified in writing of complaint within 14 days after the administrative review. Further, in the absence of unusual circumstances, the accused will receive the original complaint and documentation including the name of the accuser.

4. The accused will be given an opportunity to formally and in writing admit to or refute the accusation in 30 days from letter date, thus ensuring due process in the review.

5. The investigation may require procuring additional materials and interviews with relevant people.

6. If it is determined that there was a bona fide violation of ethics, the consequences can range from a letter of reprimand with warning, requiring the accused to complete an educational intervention on ethics, suspension, or revocation of the certification. Complainant and the certificant will be notified of the final decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

7. Every effort will be made to reach a decision in a timely manner; however, extended time may be needed to ensure full due process.

8. Actions taken do not constitute enforcement of the law, although referral to appropriate federal, state, or local government agencies may be made about the conduct of the certificant in appropriate situations.

9. NCHEC will publish suspensions and revocations on the website.

Effective Date: April 2018
October 15 - November 3, 2020 – **CHES® CERTIFIED HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST**

Exam Application
NCHEC, 1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303, Whitehall, PA 18052-5642

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY WITH INK OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION. INCOMPLETE OR MISSING INFORMATION WILL DELAY PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATION. ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGES THAT OCCUR AFTER SUBMISSION OF THIS APPLICATION MUST BE REPORTED TO NCHEC. (Print your name EXACTLY as it should appear on your CHES® Certificate).

---

**APPLICANT**

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salutation</th>
<th>First/Given</th>
<th>MI</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Prefer Not to Answer ☐ Other __________________________

Previous Last Name (if applicable) __________________________ Social Security # __________________________ Date of Birth __________________________

Are you currently employed in the Health Education profession?: (If yes, please answer next line) Yes ☐ NO ☐

Job title __________________________

Employer: __________________________

Is this certification required for your job?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number &amp; Street</th>
<th>Apartment #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone (__________)</td>
<td>Work Phone (__________)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax Phone (__________)</td>
<td>Cell Phone (__________)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________

---

**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

Is this certification required for your degree?:

☐ YES ☐ NO

What is your school's requirement:

☐ No requirement ☐ Required for graduation

☐ Take the exam ☐ Pass the exam

---

**Student Status:**

**Are you currently a full time student? (9 or more semester credits)**

☐ YES ☐ NO

Graduation Date: mm/dd/yyyy**

**Are you currently a part-time student? (Less than 9 semester credits)**

☐ YES ☐ NO

Not a Student ☐ YES ☐ NO

---

**Students or Part Time Students - An advisor letter is required to be submitted indicating expected completion of all degree requirements within 90 days of the exam date. The letter must be printed on school letterhead and include degree, major, and projected graduation date and submitted prior to exam application deadline.**

Please indicate the Primary degree being used for eligibility and submit supporting transcripts for approval. Other degree(s) listed on application do not require a transcript. **unless they are being used to determine eligibility. UPON REVIEW OF YOUR TRANSCRIPTS, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ELIGIBILITY THROUGH EMAIL.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Degree Year (Graduation Yr)</th>
<th>Degree Major Name</th>
<th>Primary University/College Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Degrees Received:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree Year (Graduation Yr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exam applications, university transcripts, and any supporting documentation become the property of NCHEC. These items will not be returned to the exam applicant or forwarded to a third party.
In recognition of my achievement as a Certified Health Education Specialist, NCHEC may publish my name in its NCHEC News and on its website. As a benefit of certification, my name and/or address may be available as follows:

a. to continuing education providers in order to receive notice of professional development opportunities
b. to employers for recruitment purposes or to verify one’s status as an active CHES®
c. to researchers for study purposes
d. to universities for the purpose of acknowledging or monitoring achievements of program graduates
e. to professional associations for the purpose of mailing newsletters/announcements, or for recruiting new members

NCHEC has permission to distribute my name and contact information as listed above:

☐ YES  ☐ NO (YOU MUST CHECK ONE)

NCHEC has permission to distribute my name and contact information with providers of study groups and exam preparation courses:

☐ YES  ☐ NO (YOU MUST CHECK ONE)

NCHEC has permission to contact you by text with exam updates and additional information:

☐ YES  ☐ NO (YOU MUST CHECK ONE)

*The above questions are required field(s) and must be completed*

AFFIRMATION and AGREEMENT

I affirm that the information given in this application is true and accurate. I hereby give my permission to NCHEC to verify any information in support of my application. I understand that the CHES® examination and the test questions contained therein are the exclusive property of NCHEC. No part of this examination may be copied or reproduced in part or in whole, by any means whatsoever, including memorization. I understand that NCHEC will provide aggregate scores to institutions and publications for reporting purposes and that individual identification will not be used, I indicate that I have read and understand the CHES® Exam Handbook in its entirety. I agree to abide to NCHEC’s Exam Polices as outlined in the Examination Handbook. If successful in passing the exam, I agree to NCHEC’s Policies and Procedures for Renewal and Recertification and abide by the Health Education Code of Ethics. Violations of NCHEC’s Exam Application, Renewal and Recertification policies and the Health Education Code of Ethics, or falsification of any documentation, may result in suspension or revocation of the credential or denial of eligibility for future exams.

Required signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Demographic Information

The sharing of your demographic information will help to inform organizational decisions regarding the advancement of the profession of health education and promotion. Information such as credentials, practice setting, age, gender and ethnicity will allow NCHEC to communicate effectively about the makeup of its certified body with government agencies, as well as our own leadership, to better represent your needs within our organization as well as the profession. To accomplish this, we need more complete aggregate baseline data. Please be advised that the information you provide below is solely for NCHEC official use, and your personal/individual data will not be shared with anyone.

Referral Source - How have you learned about NCHEC/CHES®?
☐ Direct Mail  ☐ Colleague  ☐ University
☐ Conference/Exhibit  ☐ Employer  ☐ Website Visit
☐ Journal Ad  ☐ Prefer not to answer

Work Settings:
☐ Healthcare  ☐ School  ☐ University  ☐ Retired
☐ Community  ☐ Workplace  ☐ Other ______________________
☐ Prefer not to answer

Other Credentials:
☐ ACSW  ☐ ATC  ☐ CDE  ☐ CPH  ☐ CPP  ☐ CPS  ☐ CRTT  ☐ CSWHC  ☐ DO  ☐ LPN  ☐ LSW  ☐ MD
☐ QCSW  ☐ RCEP  ☐ RD  ☐ RN  ☐ RRT
☐ OTHER ______________________
☐ Prefer not to answer

Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?
☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
☐ Yes, Puerto Rican  ☐ Yes, Cuban  ☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin - Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard and so on _________________________________

Race:
☐ Prefer not to answer
☐ White  ☐ Black, African American
☐ American Indian  ☐ Alaska Native
☐ Asian Indian  ☐ Japanese  ☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Chinese  ☐ Korean  ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Filipino  ☐ Vietnamese  ☐ Samoan
☐ Other Asian - Print race, for example Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian and so on _________________________________
☐ Other Pacific Islander - Print race, for example Fijian, Tongan, and so on _________________________________
☐ Some other race _________________________________
APPENDIX B: CHES® AND MCHES®
CONFIDENTIALITY/NON-DISCLOSURE SAMPLE AGREEMENT

*It is not necessary to submit this form when applying.

The text below contains the confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement that you will be asked to agree to as a condition of sitting for the CHES® or MCHES® exam. If you do not accept the confidentiality agreement, your exam will terminate and your exam will not be able to be reset. No refunds will be provided to examinees who choose not to accept the confidentiality agreement at the time of their examination. Please take the time to review the agreement prior to going to your Prometric test center, as you will have limited time to review the agreement during the exam period.

In a few moments, you will begin your examination. Please note that this examination and all portions thereof constitute proprietary, confidential information owned exclusively by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. All exam content is also protected by U.S. and international copyright and other laws, and all rights are reserved. The exam must not be copied or distributed in part or in its entirety. You may select either “Yes I agree” or “No, I do not agree” and thereby terminate your exam.

☐ Yes, I agree not to copy, disclose, or discuss any part of the specific or general nature of the CHES®/MCHES® exam scenarios or questions; and I understand that, should I pass this exam, my violation of this agreement is a basis for the revocation of my certification, and if I do not pass this exam, violation could result in denial of eligibility to retake the examination.

☐ Or I do not agree, and thereby terminate my exam.

NCHEC
National Commission
for Health Education Credentialing
Credentialing Excellence in Health Education
**APPENDIX C: TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FORM**

**TESTING ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM**

In accordance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA), NCHEC will strive to ensure that no individual with a disability is deprived of the opportunity to take the examination solely by reason of that disability. A candidate who has a disability may request accommodations and arrangements to take the examination. To request testing accommodations, the exam applicant must complete this form. Verification of disability from a qualified licensed individual or university disability center of specific disability must be submitted with the application and completed form. The qualified individual must be an individual qualified to assess, diagnose and treat the stated disability. Any information and documentation provided regarding the disability and the need for accommodation in testing will be kept strictly confidential and will only be shared with our testing center. All requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval. Test center personnel will be prepared to handle approved accommodations.

NCHEC will not pay any costs the candidate may incur in obtaining the required documents and recommendations. However, NCHEC will pay for any reasonable exam-related accommodations that are provided to the candidate.

What is the disability that limits one or more of your major life activities (e.g., walking, hearing, speaking, seeing, reading, or writing)?

Will this disability require testing accommodation(s) that have been documented by a physician or university disability center, in order for you to take the NCHEC certification exam?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If YES describe the special accommodation(s) you are requesting. Use a separate sheet if more space is needed. If requesting additional time, please indicate length of time needed (i.e. time and a half, double time, etc.)

By submitting this Testing Accommodations Request, I consent to the transfer, collection, processing and use of my information by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., an entity located in the United States, in accordance with the NCHEC Privacy Policy, and solely for the purpose of evaluating and providing the requested testing accommodation(s). Further, I understand that NCHEC may disclose and transfer such information to NCHEC’s testing center partner, only as reasonably necessary to provide the requested testing accommodation(s) at the testing site. Such information will be treated with strict confidence, in accordance with the NCHEC Privacy Policy and the CHES®/MCHES® Handbooks.

________________________
Signature

________________________
Date