CHES® and MCHES® Certification
The Gold Standard
Health Education and Wellness: A Profession on the Rise

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

Growth in the Certification of Health Education Specialists

The number of CHES & MCHES has increased significantly from 1,500 in 1990 to 15,200 in 2019, indicating a strong growth trend.

11%
What is a CHES®?

A CHES® is an individual that has:

- Met academic eligibility
- Passed a written examination
- Has an ongoing commitment to continuing education and professional development
CHES® and MCHES®: The Right Step for Your Career

Certification:

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

NCHEC certification will reinforce and validate your professional skills in this high-demand profession.
“I took the CHES® exam to establish myself as a professional. I knew that CHES® credentialing would demonstrate my skills, knowledge, and abilities as a Health Education Specialist. Being credentialed through NCHEC also provides me with the opportunity to connect with other health educators who are both passionate and proactive in professional development.”

Gabrielle Fitzgerald, CHES®, Health Educator
myHealth for Teens and Young Adults, Minnesota
WHERE DO CHES® and MCHES® WORK?

Source: Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis II (HESPA II 2020)
Why CHES® Certification?

Visit our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) channel for stories and interviews with other health education specialists for advice on how certification has made a difference in their careers, and how to begin the process.
CHES® and MCHES® in the workforce

The Faces of CHES®

What does a Certified Health Education Specialist do? CHES® and MCHES® have many roles in community and individual health!

Michael Hodges, MHS, CHES®
Michael is a CHES-certified Accreditation Coordinator who led the process to establish Bloomfield as New Jersey’s first nationally accredited health department through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), in addition to public health grant writing and program planning.

Chesley Cheatham, M.Ed., MCHES®
Chesley is an MCHES-certified Community Outreach Manager at UH Seidman Cancer Center. Her job duties include community health needs assessments, implementation strategies, organizational collaboration and program evaluation. She currently serves on the NCHEC Board of Commissioners in a volunteer leadership position.

Laura Colbert, MPH, MCHES®
Laura is an MCHES-certified Director of Outreach and Partnerships who oversees coalitions, partnerships, and public education and engagement efforts at Georgians for a Healthy Future, a consumer health care policy and advocacy organization.
Why Do Employers Value Certification?

“Montefiore has required the CHES® credential for its health education positions since 2006. The credential has served as a means of highlighting talented individuals with a broad understanding of the health education profession and its application within the diverse communities that we serve as an academic medical center.”

Dr. Nicole Harris-Hollingsworth, EdD, MCHES®
Assistant Vice President, Community & Population Health – Montefiore Health System
“The value of a Certified Health Education Specialist is in their unique training. They bring a distinct skillset to the table, including a broad perspective on public and community health. This type of specialist training is not often found in a clinical background.”

Kristin Behler, MPH, MCHES®, Director of Health Promotion and Wellness for Populytics/BeneFIT

View the 400+ Employers who PREFER CHES® applicants/employees: nchec.org/career-resources
NCHEC

We are the only accredited organization certifying health education specialists.

3rd-Party accreditation verifies validity
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970’s</td>
<td>• National Task Force Developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Role Verification Competencies established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980’s</td>
<td>• NCHEC Incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Charter Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000’s</td>
<td>• 2005: CUP results released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2007: CHES® Exam revised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>• 2010 Health Educator Job Analysis (HEJA) released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2011: MCHES® Exam launched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>• CHES® and MCHES® exams receive “Gold Standard” NCCCA Accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Achievements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2015  | - The Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis 2015 (HESPA) Project results are released by SOPE and NCHEC  
       - NCHEC’s new publications released |
| 2015-2016 | - ISO 17024 Accreditation as a Personnel Certifying Body Achieved  
            - Released new versions of CHES® and MCHES® exams |
| 2017  | - CHES® and MCHES® credentials are trademarked with the United States Patent and Trademark Office |
| 2018  | - New HESPA II Practice Analysis Study launched by SOPHE and NCHEC  
       - CHES® and MCHES® exams transition to computer-based format  
       - NCCA Reaccreditation for CHES® and MCHES® certifications |
| 2019  | - HESPA II 2020 Job Analysis Study verifies 8 Areas of Responsibility  
       - ISO 17024 Re-accreditation achieved |
Our organization has been committed to quality standards, best practices, and competence in the health education profession since 1989.
What is Credentialing?

Individuals
- Licensing
- Registration
- Certification

Academic Institutions
- Accreditation
Quality Assurance Mechanisms

Certification (Professional)

Accreditation (Program)

Licensure (Government)

Registration (State & Local)
CHES® Certification

- Serves the Health Education profession
- Mastery of the fundamental skills
- Valid across all practice settings
- Voluntary credential process
The Framework for Health Education Specialists - 2015

- Broad practice standards
- Measurable performance
- Used for curriculum development
- Used to evaluate continuing education programs

**New edition release: Spring 2020**
The Health Education Specialist Companion Guide for Professional Excellence

- Study Guide format
- Full-length practice examinations
- For use with both CHES® and MCHES® exams
- ONLY available for purchase on nchec.org

**New edition release: Late Spring 2020**
Health Education Specialists: Seven Areas of Responsibilities

I. Assess, Needs, Assets, & Capacity
II. Plan
III. Implement
IV. Evaluate/Research
V. Administer & Manage
VI. Serve as a Resource
VII. Communicate & Advocate

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, Health Education/Promotion, and the Profession
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
Unsure of Eligibility?

Use the Optional Prescreen Service:

- Transcript Review
- Identify needed coursework
- Fee ($25)
- If you are eligible, the $25 is subtracted from the exam fee
- Questions, contact admin@nchec.org

www.nchec.org/eligibility
The CHES® Exam

At a Glance:

- Computer-based test (CBT) exam
- 165 multiple-choice questions
- Identifies each Area of Responsibility and is competency-based
- Offered at Prometric Test Centers nationally, and some international locales
- Study Companion available
- 10 day test window in April and October
- 3 timed hours to complete
Computer-based Testing (CBT)

Advantages:

• 10 Day Test Window to fit your busy schedule
• Instant Past/Fail Result for CHES® only
• More Locations including international
• Easy Test Date Scheduling through Prometric website 24/7
• Computerized format complete with easy tutorials and point-and-click navigation

Detailed FAQs on www.nchec.org/cbt
Prometric State-of-the-Art Test Center Locations

Locate by Zip Code at: www.Prometric.com/nchec
## The CHES® Examination Content

Examination Specifications based on HESPA-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health, Health Education/Promotion, and the Profession</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)
# Current CHES® Exam Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April Exam</th>
<th>October Exam</th>
<th>Non-Student Fee</th>
<th>Student Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration: Nov 1(^{st}) – Nov 30(^{th})</td>
<td>Early Bird Registration: May 1(^{st}) – May 31(^{st})</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration: Dec 1(^{st}) – Jan 31(^{st})</td>
<td>Regular Registration: June 1(^{st}) – July 31(^{th})</td>
<td>$320</td>
<td>$270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Late) Registration: Feb 1(^{st}) – Feb 28(^{th})</td>
<td>Final (Late) Registration: Aug 1(^{st}) – Aug 31(^{st})</td>
<td>$370</td>
<td>$320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam Registration Opens on May 1\(^{st}\) and Nov 1\(^{st}\) each year**
Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES®) Credential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current CHES®</th>
<th>NON-CHES® or CHES® &lt; 5YRS ACTIVE STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Minimum of the past 5 continuous years active status</td>
<td>• 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 5 years experience as a health education specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CV/Resumé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 letters of recommendation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# The Difference Between CHES® and MCHES®

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designed for individuals in the early stages of their career</th>
<th>CHES®</th>
<th>MCHES®</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designed for experienced specialists with at least 5 years of experience</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam content validated through comprehensive research</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed for health education specialists responsible for developing and managing budgets, and applying ethical principles</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed for health education specialists responsible for identifying staff development and training needs</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed for health education specialists who select participants and deliver training</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed for health education specialists who develop and monitor strategic plans</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designed for health education specialists who identify existing data collection instruments for program evaluation</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
<td>⭐️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
Why MCHES®?

- The MCHES® credential is designed for experienced and knowledgeable leaders in the field.

- MCHES® is the only advanced credential for health education specialists.

- In a health system focused on prevention, your role as a leader/expert is crucial.
# Current MCHES® Exam Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April Exam</th>
<th>October Exam</th>
<th>5-Year CHES®</th>
<th>Non-CHES® or CHES &lt; 5 yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration: Nov 1(^{st}) – Nov 30(^{th})</td>
<td>Early Bird Registration: May 1(^{st}) – May 31(^{st})</td>
<td>$285</td>
<td>$335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Registration: Dec 1(^{st}) – Jan 31(^{st})</td>
<td>Regular Registration: June 1(^{st}) – July 31(^{th})</td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>$385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Late) Registration: Feb 1(^{st}) – Feb 28(^{th})</td>
<td>Final (Late) Registration: Aug 1(^{st}) – Aug 31(^{st})</td>
<td>$385</td>
<td>$435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam Registration Opens on May 1\(^{st}\) and Nov 1\(^{st}\) each year**
The MCHES® Exam

At a Glance:

- Provided at Prometric Test Centers
- 3 timed hours to complete
- 165 multiple choice questions; 150 scored, 15 pilot
- Stand alone & scenario-based multiple choice items
- Covers all 7 Areas of Responsibility; there are 117 advanced-level only Sub-competencies
- Exam content will change in 2021
# The MCHES® Examination Content

## Examination Specifications based on HESPA-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Plan Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Implement Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health, Health Education/Promotion, and the Profession</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHES®/MCHES® Exam Schedule

Twice each year

April (10-day window)

October (10-day window)

Register during the early-bird period to receive the greatest discount on fees
• Pass written examination
• Annual $60.00 renewal fee
• 75 hours of continuing education with a five-year cycle
• Recertify at the fifth year if renewal fees are paid and continuing education requirements have been met
• Complete a measurement/evaluation of Continuing Competency
Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH): 75 hours are required for the five-year recertification

- Continuing Competence Assessment for Recertification CHES®/MCHES®
- Easy assessment process available – no retest necessary
CECH Categories

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.

**Continuing Competency (CC)**
- A demonstration of Continuing Competency during a 5-year recertification cycle will include either:
  1) an assessment (Cat I CECH) **OR** 2) an evaluation of job duties by a supervisor (Cat II CECH).
Continuing Competency Requirements:

During a 5-year recertification cycle, a CHES® or MCHES® must complete a measurement of Continuing Competence.

Certificant must complete an:

1) Assessment Quiz (Category I CECH)  OR  2) Assessment of Practice (Category II CECH)
Start your certification journey today!

Join in the conversation with over 30,000 followers!

- Instagram: ches_mches
- LinkedIn: The Official NCHEC CHES/MCHES Group
- Facebook: ches.mches
- Twitter: @NCHEC_updates
- YouTube: NCHEC Channel

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 | admin@nchec.org
Transcript for NCHEC PowerPoint Presentation – CHES® and MCHES®

Slide 1. The Gold Standard. This slide show describes the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., (also known as NCHEC) certifications known as the CHES® and the MCHES®.

Slide 2. Health Education and Wellness. With our health care environment focusing more on prevention, the role of the health education specialist is critical, and has experienced growth each year. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this field is projected to have faster than average job growth in the next decade with an 11 percent increase in job openings. NCHEC is also seeing an increased interest in certification. Between 2007 and 2017, the average the number of CHES® and MCHES® certificants has increased by 10% a year, and has now reached over 15,000 certified individuals as of 2019, practicing across the US, Puerto Rico, and varying locations internationally. NCHEC offers the only nationally and internationally accredited certification programs for academically trained individuals interested in this ever-growing profession.

NCHEC offers the only nationally and internationally accredited certification programs for academically trained individuals interested in this ever-growing profession.

Slide 3. What is a CHES®?

A Certified Health Education Specialist is an individual that has:

- Met academic eligibility
- Passed a written examination
- Has an ongoing commitment to continuing education and professional development

Slide 4. CHES® and MCHES®: The Right Step for your Career. There are many benefits to earning the CHES® and MCHES® credentials for the professional, the public, and the industry as a whole. The results of a 2019 survey of credential holders conducted by NCHEC show that holding the CHES® or MCHES® credential enhances professional credibility, provides a sense of personal and professional accomplishment, receives recognition from peers and employers, and expands professional opportunity.

Slide 4. Testimonial. Here is what Gabrielle Fitzgerald, a Health Educator for Minnesota non-profit organization myHealth for Teens and Young Adults, said about why she chose to earn the CHES® credential.

Slide 6. Where do CHES® and MCHES® Work? CHES® and MCHES® practice within varied settings across the country and overseas. Their verified skill-sets are a valuable asset in many different sectors within the Health and Wellness space.
Slide 7. Why CHES® Certification? Above all, NCHEC certification sets you apart, giving you the edge you need to stand out in a competitive environment. Visit our YouTube channel for a recent interview with CHES® and MCHES® across a variety of settings to learn more about why certification may be right for you.

Slide 8. CHES® and MCHES® Profiles. Three examples of CHES® and MCHES® individuals, in differing career sectors: Health Departments, Hospitals, and Non-profit.

Slide 9. Why do Employers Value CHES®? More and more employers are realizing the benefits of hiring CHES®-certified employees. For example, Montefiore Health System uses CHES® certification to identify equipped and knowledgeable individuals to fill open positions. They have been requiring certification since 2006.

Slide 10. Employer's Perspective. At Populytics/BeneFIT Wellness, CHES® and MCHES® frequently move into leadership and managerial roles, including the hiring process. Check out the job postings at www.nchec.org quick links Job Postings. Look at the growing list of employers who prefer or require certification as a condition of hiring at nchec.org/career-resources.

Slide 11. Our Accreditations. NCHEC earned third-party accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and from the International Accreditation Service (IAS) for both its CHES® and MCHES® programs. NCHEC offers the only certification programs in our field accredited by a third party. This “Gold Standard” sets us apart and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to upholding the best practices in the professional certification industry.

Slide 12. Our Vision and Mission. NCHEC's vision is to promote, improve, and protect the health of people through upholding the highest quality standards in health education certifications. 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.

Our charge is to develop and administer a national competency-based examination; develop standards for professional preparation; and promote professional development through continuing education for health education professionals.

Slide 13. History of NCHEC. NCHEC was established through the work, financial contributions and commitment of health education professionals, employers, health education organizations, and government agencies. Our programs are developed by practicing health education specialists for health education specialists. These are your credentials and your community.

Beginning in the mid-1970s, the health education profession began the process of developing the steps necessary to establish the credentialing of health educators.
The goal was to clarify the role of health educators and to establish standards of professional practice. This led to the agreement on the Competencies and Responsibilities of health educators. The 1978 Workshop on Commonalities and Differences recommended the formation of a planning committee, which became the National Task Force on the Preparation and Practice of Health Educators. The National Task Force on the Preparation and Practice of Health Educators formally became incorporated as NCHEC in 1988. In 1989, experienced health education professionals had the opportunity to become Certified Health Education Specialists via a chartership process that included a review of documented experience. The first CHES® exam was administered in 1990 and is now offered twice a year at hundreds of testing locations worldwide.

In 2005, results of the six-year National Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP) were unveiled. This multiphase nationwide research study re-verified the role of entry-level health educators and further defined and verified the role of advanced-level health educators. Results from the CUP study led to the release of new publications, and the revised CHES® exam was administered in October 2007 and reflected the updated responsibilities and competencies of the entry-level health educator.

In 2010 the Health Educator Job Analysis (HEJA) was released. The 18-month research project confirmed a hierarchical model of entry- and advanced-level Competencies. A new framework publication was released based on the HEJA study and the CHES® exam was updated. The advanced-level certification, MCHES®, was launched in 2011 based on the HEJA study. NCHEC launched the MCHES® program designed for health education specialists working in a more advanced role. This growing program is targeted to individuals with at least five years of experience in the field and plays an important role in defining the industry as it advances to meet the public’s need. In June 2013, the CHES® and MCHES® certification programs were granted accreditation by the NCCA. This signifies that the CHES® and MCHES® exams comply with stringent testing and measurement standards among testing organizations.

**Slide 14. NCHEC’s Recent Accomplishments.** In 2015, the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis Project (HESPA) was completed. The HESPA was sponsored by NCHEC, and the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) that involved a process to re-validate the contemporary practice of entry-level and advanced-level health education specialists. The results which were released in 2015 altered Areas of Responsibility, Competencies, and Sub-competencies as needed to reflect current practice.

The HESPA project resulted in a revised edition of *The Health Education Specialist: A Companion Guide for Professional Excellence, 7th edition*, and *A Competency-based Framework for Health Education Specialists 2015*. NCHEC aligned CHES®/MCHES® Exam with the updated 2015 Competencies and Sub-competences from the HESPA framework. The revised MCHES® exam was released in April 2016 and the revised CHES® was released in October 2016. Also in 2016, NCHEC achieved international accreditation for both certifications through IAS (ISO 17024 Accreditation as a Personnel Certifying Body).

In early 2017, both the CHES® and MCHES® credentials were registered as official trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, bringing more value and credence to the designations.

In 2018, work on the HESPA II – Health Education Specialist Analysis- began to identify changes in the profession in regards to the Areas of Responsibility and Competencies of practicing Health Education Specialists. Also in 2018, the CHES® and MCHES® certifications were award reaccreditation by the NCCA, and transitioned from a paper-based testing format to computer-based testing. In 2019, the HESPA verified 8 Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists, and was re-accredited by IAS.
Slide 15. **30 Years of Excellence.** NCHEC’s history and recent accomplishments support our mission, help us achieve our goals, and stay committed to quality standards, best practices and competence. NCHEC recently celebrated it’s 30th anniversary of excellence in certification.

Slide 16. **What is Credentialing?** Credentialing is an umbrella term that includes authenticating an individual through several means (certification, registration or licensure); also accreditation of colleges and university programs. Certification was chosen as the method of individual credentialing for the health education profession.

Slide 17. **Quality Assurance Mechanisms.** There are different mechanisms available to assure quality in the workplace including:

- **Licensure** – A process where government (at any level) grants permission to practice if certain specified standards are met.
- **Certification** – A process by which a professional organization grants recognition to an individual when completing specified qualifications and predetermined standards of performance.
- **Registration** – A process offered by state or local agencies requiring specific guidelines, including established parameters.
- **Accreditation** – A process by which an entire program is evaluated according to predetermined criteria.

Slide 18. **What is CHES® Certification?** The CHES® certification was developed by and for the health education profession to demonstrate the mastery of a set of fundamental skills across all practice settings. It is a voluntary certification, not yet required to practice. Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES®) are those who have met the standards of competence established by NCHEC.

Slide 19. **The Framework for Health Education Specialists.** Containing every Area of Responsibilities and Competencies, the Framework sets broad standards of practice and clarifies skills and competencies for professional health education specialists. It is competency-based, implying there are clear, measurable statements describing desired student performance. The intent of the Framework is to assist faculty in development of health education curricula and to evaluate continuing education programs. The framework document was updated in 2019 from the HESPA study and is available for purchase on the NCHEC website. The updated version will be available for purchase in the spring of 2020.

Slide 20. **The Health Education Specialist Companion Guide for Professional Excellence.** This study guide for both the CHES® and MCHES® exam is a useful – but not required – tool used by candidates during study and preparation for the certification exam. This Companion Guide is the only available on the nchec.org website. The newest edition of this guide will be available in late spring or early summer 2020.
Slide 21. Seven Areas of Responsibilities. The following are the Seven Areas of Responsibilities validated from the 2015 HESPA study and are the current basis of the CHES® and MCHES® certifications. The new HESPA study has been released, and will lead to an adjustment to include Areas in Communication and Advocacy. The CHES® and MCHES® exams will be updated to include the new and revised Competencies beginning in 2021.

1. Assess Needs, Assets and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion
2. Plan Health Education/Promotion
3. Implement Health Education/Promotion
4. Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion
5. Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion
6. Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person
7. Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health, and the Profession of Health Education/Promotion

Slide 22. CHES® Eligibility. Eligibility for the CHES® exam is based exclusively on academic qualifications.

An individual must have a bachelor’s, masters, or doctorate degree from an accredited institution AND either one of the following:

An official transcript that shows a major in Health Education, Public Health Education, Community Health Education, School Health Education

Or

An official transcript that reflects 25 semester hours (37 quarter hours) of earned course work addressing the Seven Areas of Responsibility.

Slide 23. Prescreen Service. Occasionally, applicants are unclear about whether their credentials meet the eligibility requirements. Their degree may not read “health education” but they may have accumulated sufficient hours of course work. The commission offers a pre-screening service for prospective applicants to determine eligibility before applying for the CHES® exam. Transcripts are reviewed to determine eligibility. Notification in writing of the prescreen outcome will be provided. If ineligible, course deficiencies will be identified and guidance for qualification will be provided. There is a $25 nonrefundable fee for this service. However, if deemed eligible, the $25 fee is applied toward the applicant’s exam registration. Slide 17. The Difference Between CHES® and MCHES®.

Slide 24. The CHES® Exam. The CHES® examination is competency-based. This means that the examination is constructed based on the framework document, which identifies the Seven Areas of Responsibility. Within each Area of Responsibility, the basic Competencies necessary for health education specialists have been delineated. These delineations serve as a basis for developing the questions on the examination. The CHES® examination is a computer-based test consisting of 165 multiple choice questions of which 150 are scored and 15 pilot tested that measure the possession, application and interpretation of knowledge essential to the practice of health education. The exam is offered at state-of-the-art Prometric Test Centers at hundreds of locations nationally.
and internationally. A study companion (Health Education Specialist Companion Guide) is available on the NCHEC Web site to assist in preparing for the examination.

**Slide 25. Computer-based Testing.** CHES® and MCHES® Exam candidates utilize professional, secure, technology-enabled global Prometric test centers, which includes such benefits as immediate pass/fail scoring (for CHES® only), and an expanded range of testing dates and locations, including international locations, and 24-hr online scheduling.

**Slide 26. Prometric Test Centers.** Applicants can search online at www.prometric.com/nchec to discover what test centers are nearest to them through an easy zip-code search tool.

**Slide 27. CHES® Exam Content.** The examination specification is currently based on the HESPA 2015. This table outlines the areas of responsibility on the examination and the percent of exam questions that come from each area. CHES examination content will change in October of 2021 to reflect the HESPA 2020 study.

**Slide 28. Current Exam Fees.** Exam registration opens in May and November of every year. Register during the Early Bird period to receive a $50 discount. Student discounts (full-time students only) are available with documentation of full-time status. The final exam registration period closes on February 28th and August 31st of each year.

**Slide 29. Master Certified Health Education Specialist.** NCHEC utilizes the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES®) examination to assess the extent to which a candidate can possess, apply, and interpret knowledge relative to the Seven Areas of Responsibility; delineated from A Competency-Based Framework for Health Education Specialists – 2015. The exam reflects both the entry and advanced level Competencies and Sub-competencies of these Areas of Responsibility.

The MCHES® exam eligibility includes both academic and experience requirements.

For those already CHES®-certified: A minimum of the past five (5) continuous years in active status as a Certified Health Education Specialist. (no other documentation required)

For Non-CHES or CHES® with fewer than five 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 Educators were addressed. Plus, five (5) years of documented experience as a health education specialist

To verify experience 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

In the verification form it must be indicated, and in the curriculum vitae/resume it must clearly be shown, that the applicant has been engaged in the Areas of Responsibility for at least the past five years (experience may be prior to completion of graduate degree).

**Slide 30. The Difference Between CHES® and MCHES®.** NCHEC is the only health education and promotion certified that offers both entry and advanced-level certifications. The Masters-level certification focuses on advanced skillsets and has differing eligibility requirements.

**Slide 31. Why MCHES®?** The MCHES® certification is seen as a career ladder and signifies mastery of advanced-level competency across the profession. MCHES® is the only advanced credential for health education specialists who are knowledgeable and experienced leaders in the industry. MCHES® is the only advanced-level credential in the field of health education and promotion.

**Slide 32. Current MCHES® Exam Fees.** This slide illustrates the application fees and deadlines. Exam registration opens in May and November of every year. Register during the Early Bird period to receive a $50 discount. If you are a current active CHES® of 5 years or greater, you will receive an additional discount on fees.

**Slide 33. The MCHES® Exam.** The MCHES® examination is a criterion-referenced test that contains 165 multiple choice items; 150 of the items are used for the total score and there are 15 pilot items on each exam. The exam contains both stand alone and scenario based multiple choice items that cover all Seven Areas of Responsibilities. The exam reflects both the entry and 117 advanced level Competencies and Sub-competencies of these Areas of Responsibility. The MCHES® examination is offered at Prometric state-of-the-art global test centers.

**Slide 34. MCHES® Exam Content.** The examination specification based on the HESPA 2015.

Area of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists and % of Questions on MCHES Exam

- **Area I:** Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion 10%
- **Area II:** Plan Health Education/Promotion 16%
- **Area III:** Implement Health Education/Promotion 15%
- **Area IV:** Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion 20%
- **Area V:** Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion 18%
- **Area VI:** Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person 12%
• Area VII: Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health and the Profession of Health Education/Promotion 9%

The MCHES exam will be revised to reflect the new HESPA II 2020 results in April of 2021.

Slide 35. CHES®/MCHES® Exam Schedule. The CHES® and MCHES® exams are currently offered twice a year; in April and October, over a ten-day window with many different testing times and locations available. Rescheduling options are available; consult the exam handbook available on nchec.org/exams.

Slide 36. Certification Requirements. To maintain the CHES® or MCHES® credential, individuals must pass the written examination, pay an annual renewal fee of $60, and document 75 hours of continuing education within a five year period. Individuals recertify in five year cycles if above criteria has been met. As of April of 2019, CHES® and MCHES® now need to complete a measurement/evaluation of Continuing Competency as part of their continuing education requirement.

Slide 37. CHES®/MCHES® Continuing Education. There are many continuing education opportunities available to get the required 75 hours in a five year cycle, as well as fulfill the continuing competency requirement during the same period. Some of the opportunities include professional conferences, seminars and workshops: self study and online courses. Several professional organizations offer self study opportunities within its publications. Continuing education opportunities are announced on the Web site and via direct mail.

Slide 38. CECH Categories. CECH Stands for Continuing Education Contact Hours, which will be a component of maintaining certification. There are four types of CECH.

Category I – preapproved events offered by Designated Providers, which report all activities directly to NCHEC. Individuals may earn all of their CECH by participating in Category I activities, but do not have to. (At least 45 of the 75 CECH must be in this category) NCHEC has over 300 Designated Providers that offer CECH for CHES® and MCHES®.

Category II – refers to continuing education that is not preapproved. An individual may earn Category II by participating in activities that relate to at least one of the Seven Areas of Responsibility, but were not approved in advance by NCHEC. No more than 30 of the 75 CECH may be earned in this Category. A Category II claim form must be completed by the individual and supporting documentation submitted directly to NCHEC.

MCHES® advanced – MCHES® are required to earn 30 CECH directly related to the advanced-level Subcompetencies form Category I and/or II.

Continuing Competency (CC) - A demonstration of Continuing Competency during a 5-year recertification.
**Slide 39. Continuing Competency Requirements.** As of April 2019, CHES® and MCHES® need 5 CC CECH during the course of their 5-year cycle. These 5 credits will be part of your 75 total CECH. The total number of continuing education credits you need will not increase.

CC credits will be available as either Category I CECH OR Category II CECH. You will not need both. A measurement of a CHES® or MCHES®’s continued competence during a 5-year recertification cycle will include either:

1) an assessment/quiz by provider of Category I CECH OR

2) an evaluation of job duties by a supervisor (Category II CECH).

**Slide 40. Networking Opportunities.** Please join our growing list of credential holders and supporters in our online community – with nearly 30,000 followers across platforms for news, discussion groups, and more.