What Is a Twitter Chat and How Do I Participate?

Twitter chats are conversations that occur on Twitter at a designated date and time about a certain topic. Every Twitter chat has a hashtag, which allows anyone on Twitter to follow the chat or even participate.

To participate in NCHEC’s #HealthEdCareers Twitter chat, you will need a Twitter account, which is free to join. Once you are logged in to Twitter, type in the chat’s hashtag (#HealthEdCareers) in the search bar on the top right hand side of Twitter.

When you get to the results page, click on “latest” to see all the current tweets from the chat.

NCHEC (@NCHEC_updates) will moderate the chat by tweeting questions or topics for all participants to comment on. If you would like to add a comment or answer a question, type your tweet and make sure to include the hashtag and the Answer Number that the comment pertains to. Remember that if you don’t include the hashtag, the other chat participants will not see your tweets. For example:

Q.1. (Moderator). Welcome to the #HealthEdCareers Twitter Chat. Where are you tweeting from today?

A.1. Hi, I am tweeting from Wilmington, NC. I’m new to Twitter and excited about today’s chat. #HealthEdCareers

You will see new tweets appear on that results page throughout the chat (including your own tweets).

Note: if you have a private account on Twitter, the only people who will see your tweets during a Twitter chat are the ones who follow you. You should consider unprotecting your account (making it public) if you would like to participate in Twitter chats. More information here.

Useful Resource: TWEETDECK

Twitter Chats can be fast-paced and sometimes hard to follow. I like to use TweetDeck during the actual live chat process. Tweetdeck is owned by Twitter and integrates seamlessly with your Twitter account as a login. This is a simple way to keep on track with a Twitter chat. You would need to log into Tweetdeck in advance of the chat, then type in the hashtag #HealthEdCareers to follow along.

Tweetdeck sample dashboard:
Sample Q & A Format from past Twitter Chat:

**AStepAheadFoundation @astepahead_mem • Apr 26, 2018**

A1: To us, health education is about so much more than just increasing knowledge. It's providing info to empower community members to take action to improve their health and take control of their life path.

#healthedcareers

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**NCHEC @NCHEC_updates • Apr 26, 2018**

Q1: What is #healtheducation to you? #healthedcareers

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**Arcy Segura @ArcySegura • Apr 26, 2018**

Agreed! Research into the field of #healtheducation can start very early. Keep an eye on job opportunities at various health dept, hospitals, and local CBO. This can give some insight to how the job market is growing.