

## Benefits of CHES/MCHES Certification

1. Establishes a national standard.
2. Attests to the individual's knowledge and skills.
3. Assists employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners.
4. Conveys a sense of pride and accomplishment in your profession.
5. Promotes continued professional development.

## Goals

1. **Participate** in an introduction and overview to the course and the learners in live format and via recording.
2. **Examine** the foundational elements of the history, evidence and practical applications for health educator role delineation (to include individual assessment).
3. **Compare** the Areas of Responsibility in terms of competencies, and selected sub-competencies, along with the aligned roles, settings, examples and resources.
4. **Engage** in application modalities with individual and group projects, examination preparation, employment opportunities, and futuring.

## Instructor:

### Gary D. Gilmore, M.P.H., Ph.D., MCHES



Gary D. Gilmore, M.P.H., Ph.D., MCHES, is a public health epidemiologist and public health educator who developed this opportunity to serve as a practical, meaningful learning experience for emerging health educators and health promotion specialists who want to become more fully aware of, and connected to, the health education Areas of Responsibility and the health education competencies. Additionally, the experience is designed to assist individuals in preparing for the CHES and MCHES examinations (a thoughtful, meaningful review with examples, not a "crash course").

Dr. Gilmore has been a part of the national health education credentialing process since its inception beginning with the seminal Bethesda, Maryland conference in 1978, the meeting in which the profession decided to go forth with a national certification process. He has served on the Board of Commissioners, and as Vice Chair, of the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing; he was a member of the National Graduate Competencies Implementation Committee; he chaired the National Competencies Update Project during its eight years of existence, which verified the health education competencies and sub-competencies and resulted in the formulation of the hierarchical model that guides the distinct levels of health education competencies and sub-competencies today.



## PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Gary D. Gilmore, M.P.H., Ph.D., MCHES, Professor and Director  
Graduate Community Health/Public Health Programs  
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**Special notice for those recertifying as CHES or MCHES and demonstrating continuing competency:** For those who are CHES or MCHES certified, there is an important recently-initiated recertification requirement by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) termed Continuing Competency which is to be assessed by Multiple Event Providers (MEPs) like Extended Learning, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. We fully support this requirement for those who are certified through NCHEC to demonstrate specified levels of knowledge, skills, and/or ability throughout one's professional career. As a first step, you can go to: [www.nche.org/news/posts/continuing-competency-requirements-for-re-certification](http://www.nche.org/news/posts/continuing-competency-requirements-for-re-certification) for additional information and the assessment form. Thereafter, you can communication with Dr. Gilmore to discuss Continuing Competency performance options.

## NON-CREDIT OPTION:

608.785.6500 | [ex@uwlax.edu](mailto:ex@uwlax.edu)

## FOR CREDIT ACCESS BY NON-TRADITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:

608.785.6513 | [bmeuer@uwlax.edu](mailto:bmeuer@uwlax.edu)

## EXTENDED LEARNING

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
220 Morris Hall, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601  
608.785.6500

[www.uwlax.edu/ches](http://www.uwlax.edu/ches)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

# HEALTH EDUCATION: Responsibilities, Competencies and Certification

Spring & Fall 2021



Secure your future as a Health Educator by becoming a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) or a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) and examining the foundational elements and applications. This workshop can be of assistance along with the additional requirements specified within this brochure.

REGISTER TODAY

[www.uwlax.edu/ches](http://www.uwlax.edu/ches)

# Health Education: Responsibilities, Competencies and Certification



This workshop provides a detailed review of the analysis and application of the Areas of Responsibility and Competencies. The focus is on helping you increase your knowledge of the concepts and be better prepared for the CHES or MCHES examination, and your professional practice.

The program is designed to review the health educator responsibilities, competencies, and selected sub-competencies (with examples), and also provide an overview of the National Certification Examination. It is not intended to be “solely” a test preparation experience. Both exams are offered in April and October and consist of 165 multiple choice questions (150 scored, 15 pilot tested) some of which are scenario-based, and are administered electronically throughout the U.S.

## CHES

The CHES examination is an entry-level, competency-based tool used to measure possession, application and interpretation of knowledge in the Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists. A CHES certified person is a practitioner who 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. Satisfies the continuing education requirement to maintain the national credential.

Before you register, check out the eligibility requirements. In order to take the exam, you will need to have the following:

- A bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.
- And either an official transcript showing a major in health education or an official transcript indicating at least 25 semester hours or 37 quarter hours of coursework in health education.

## MCHES

The MCHES exam is based on the scientific approach to measure the existing health education entry and advanced-level sub-competencies related to the Areas of Responsibility.

An MCHES certified person is an advanced-level practitioner who has\*:

1. Met required academic qualifications, worked in the field for a minimum of five years.
2. Successfully passed a competency-based assessment administered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.
3. Satisfies the continuing education requirement to maintain the national credential.

To qualify for the exam, you must meet both academic and experience requirements:

- For CHES: A minimum of the past five (5) continuous years in active status as a Certified Health Education Specialist
- 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 coursework in which the Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists were addressed.
  - Five (5) years of documented experience as a Health Education Specialist.

\*Make certain to refer to the [NCHec.org](http://NCHec.org) website for the *Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Exam Application Handbook* | *Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) Exam Application Handbook* for any updated eligibility details.

**Online\* course opportunity: HED 471/571**

**Spring 2021:** March 26–April 15

**Fall 2021:** September 24–October 14

During the three weeks, each week provides an opportunity to review and gain insights into the following major areas of focus:

1. An historical and foundational overview of the research and competencies for the health education/ health promotion specialist.
2. A focus on clear examples of the application of the competencies in practice settings.
3. Preparation for either the CHES or MCHES examination.

Whether you are a graduating health education student or a practicing health education professional, the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) designation after your name is one indication of professional competency and commitment to continued professional development.

Participants in this workshop will need access to two essential documents throughout the experience, available from NCHec at: [nchec.org/publications](http://nchec.org/publications):

- ***HESPA II 2020 Competency-based Framework***
- ***The Health Education Specialist: A Companion Guide for Professional Excellence, 7th edition***

\*Synchronous events will be recorded for those taking the course entirely online.

## REGISTER

**CECHs or CEU option: \$395**

**15 (Category 1) CECHs CHES/MCHES or 2 CEUs**

**CECHs for CHES/MCHES:** University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) is approved by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHec) to offer CECHs for CHES/MCHES participants. UWL Extended Learning maintains responsibility for the program and its content. UWL Extended Learning reports CHES/MCHES CECHs quarterly to NCHec.

**University Credit option:**

**HED471/571, section 700 | Tuition: 2 UG/GRAD credits\***

**For credit access by non-traditional participants, contact Briana Meuer at [bmeuer@uwlax.edu](mailto:bmeuer@uwlax.edu).**

\*Regular tuition, plus, a \$25 registration fee/semester and a \$2/credit Canvas fee is assessed to all undergraduate and graduate students.

## Alumna earns highest score on National Certified Health Education Specialist Exam

UWL alumna Gabby Fitzgerald, who earned a bachelor’s degree in public health and community health education in spring 2017, was the top scorer on the October 2017 National Certified Health Education Specialist exam. A total of 915 candidates were tested nationally on this date with a pass rate of 66 percent.



“I think this speaks volumes of UWL’s CHE program and the work of the professors and staff to provide students with high quality preparation for the credentialing processes and the professional world,” says Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald adds that Dr. Gilmore’s CHES preparation class gave her a great advantage and assisted her understanding of the competencies and sub-competencies.