

## What Is A Health Educator?

A health educator is professionally prepared and possesses knowledge and skills based upon theories and research to promote health behavior change in individuals and populations. Health education draws from various sciences to promote health and prevent disease, disability, and premature death.

This professional assists individuals, either separately or collectively, to make informed decisions about matters affecting their health. Health educators positively influence the health behavior of individuals as well as the living and working conditions that influence their health.



## Resources for Recruiting Your Health Educator

[Appalachian State University](#) (BS)  
Department of Health Education  
(828) 262-2232 ✓ [www.appstate.edu](http://www.appstate.edu)

[East Carolina University](#) (BS, MA, MAEd)  
Department of Health Education and Promotion  
(252) 328-6000 ✓ [www.ecu.edu](http://www.ecu.edu)

[Elon College](#) (BS)  
Department of Health Promotion, Leisure and Human Performance  
(336)278-5877 ✓ [www.elon.edu](http://www.elon.edu)

[Fayetteville State University](#) (BS)  
Department of Health, Physical Education and Health Services  
(910) 672-1265 ✓ [www.unccfsu.edu](http://www.unccfsu.edu)

[Johnson C. Smith University](#) (BS)  
Department of Health and Human Performance  
(704) 371-6746 ✓ [www.jcsu.edu](http://www.jcsu.edu)

[North Carolina Central University](#) (BS, MS)  
Department of Health Education  
(919) 560-6422 ✓ [www.nccu.edu](http://www.nccu.edu)

[University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) (MPH, PhD, DrPH)  
Department of Health Behavior and Health Education  
(919) 966-5771 ✓ [www.unc.edu](http://www.unc.edu)

[University of North Carolina at Charlotte](#) (BS,MS)  
Department of Health Behavior and Administration  
(704) 687-2957 ✓ [www.uncc.edu](http://www.uncc.edu)

[University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#) (BS, MPH)  
Department of Public Health Education  
(336) 334-5532 ✓ [www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)

[University of North Carolina at Pembroke](#) (BS)  
Community Health Education Program  
(910) 521-6347 ✓ [www.uncp.edu](http://www.uncp.edu)

[NC Chapter, Society for Public Health Education](#)  
<http://ncarolinasophe.org/>

[Society for Public Health Education](#)  
<http://www.sophe.org>

[Emory University Job Website](#)  
<http://www.sph.emory.edu/ASPH/students/links.html>

[New York University Job Bank](#)  
<http://www.nyu.edu/education/hepr/jobs/jobbank/>

[NC Board of Registry for Health Education](#)  
P.O. Box 14274  
Raleigh, NC 27620  
[j.mcqueen@poehealth.org](mailto:j.mcqueen@poehealth.org)

[NCAAHE](#)  
[www.ncchperd.org/ncaahe/ncaahe.htm](http://www.ncchperd.org/ncaahe/ncaahe.htm)

[NC Coalition for Health Education](#)  
[NCCHE@yahoo.com](mailto:NCCHE@yahoo.com)

## Enhance Your Organization's Effectiveness:



**A guide to assist you in hiring a Health Educator, and give you a better understanding of how a Health Educator can enhance the effectiveness of your organization and improve its services and products.**

## Academic Preparation

Health education degrees are offered at more than 250 colleges and universities across the country. Degree programs may be variously titled, such as health education, health promotion, health behavior, health science, and community or school health education.

The health educator may obtain a BA or BS degree in health education at the undergraduate level or MA, MS, MEd, MAEd, MPH, or MSPH degree at the graduate level. Doctoral degrees in health education are also offered (PhD, EdD, or DrPH).

Based on the area and focus of training, health educators may practice in schools, colleges, workplaces, medical care settings, public health settings, or other educational settings within the community. Professional training prepares them to work in these settings with a wide variety of individuals and populations.

## Individual Certification/ Licensure

There is a voluntary professional credentialing process available to eligible health educators through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. Upon successfully passing a national exam, a health educator becomes a Certified Health Education Specialist.

Health educators can be registered by the North Carolina Board of Registry for Health Education, Inc.

Health educators may hold a North Carolina Teaching License that is issued by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. A license is awarded after passing standard testing requirements and graduating from a university with an accredited health education program.



## What Skills Can A Professional Health Educator Contribute to Your Organization?

Use the checklist below to plan interview questions which will apply specifically to the health education needs of your agency/organization.

- c Perform needs and resource assessments at individual and community levels
- c Develop, manage, and evaluate:
  - Health education programs and services
  - Mass media campaigns
  - Health risk appraisal instruments
  - Educational materials and curricula (e.g., printed, audiovisual, and web-based)
- c Manage personnel and programs
- c Build coalitions within priority communities
- c Organize and mobilize community action on health issues
- c Act as a resource for health education services and materials
- c Provide health education leadership on health teams in the agency and the community
- c Identify funding sources and develop grant proposals
- c Advocate for health issues
- c Promote healthy behaviors and preventive care
- c Conduct research as appropriate for program planning, implementation, and evaluation
- c Train and manage health advisors and peer health educators
- c Plan and facilitate training of health care professionals
- c Provide patient/client/consumer education
- c Market health programs and services



## Interviewing Applicants for Your Health Education Positions

In the previous panel, you identified specific skill needs of your organization. Here is a list of suggested interview questions to ask about any of the identified skill areas:

- 4 What training and experience have you had with this skill?
- 4 What are the steps involved in using this skill?
- 4 In what settings have you applied this skill?
- 4 Describe two projects where you used this skill.
- 4 How did you involve other groups or individuals in one of these projects?
- 4 Please give two examples of news articles, brochures, or other materials you wrote as part of one of these projects.

What is your level of health education training?

- 4 Do you have a degree in health education?
- 4 If so, does your degree have a special emphasis?
- 4 How do you continue your professional development?

What professional organizations do you belong to?

Describe your participation in these organizations.

- North Carolina Association for the Advancement of Health Education
- North Carolina Chapter, Society for Public Health Education
- North Carolina Public Health Association
- Others, please name

Are you a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)?

What other certifications do you hold?

Are you a registered health educator (RHEd.)?