

# Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis II 2020 (HESPA II 2020) Update

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It is necessary for the Health Education profession to periodically conduct a practice analysis to re-validate and update the role of the Health Education Specialist. A practice analysis is a requirement of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the agency that accredits the exams

leading to the CHES\* and MCHES\* credentials. The most recent effort to update and re-validate is referred to as the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis II 2020 (HESPA II 2020). HESPA II 2020 is the fifth such process in the history of the profession. The initial Role Delineation Project began in the 1970s; the second was the Competencies Update Project (CUP), which was completed in 2004; the third was the Health Educator Job Analysis (HEJA) completed in 2010; and the fourth was the initial Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis (HESPA) completed in 2015. HESPA II 2020, which began in spring 2018 and was completed in July 2019, and was co-sponsored by NCHEC and the Society for Public Health Education, Inc. (SOPHE).

Initial results of HESPA II 2020 include a new competency-based framework that is made up of Eight Areas of Responsibility:

- I. Assessment of Needs and Capacity
- II. Planning
- III. Implementation

- V. Evaluation and Research
- V. Advocacy
- VI. Communication
- VII. Leadership and Management
- VIII. Ethics and Professionalism

Currently, development and review of the technical report by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is near completion. Following this, the governing boards of the two partnering organizations, NCHEC and SOPHE, will review the results of the HESPA II 2020 process. After the final report is approved, the NCHEC boards will begin their work to update the CHES\* and MCHES\* exams, revise the continuing education forms, and create the new NCHEC publications of the Competency-based Framework and Companion Guide. The Companion Guide is often used in part to help prepare candidates for taking one of the exams. Both of these documents are expected to be published in 2020. The first CHES\* and MCHES\* exams based on the new Framework are expected in 2021. HESPA II 2020 will also have implications for professional preparation and professional development programs.

A heartfelt thank you to all the Health Education Specialists who contributed time and information through the completion of the intensive survey earlier this year. Your participation is critical to advancing our profession, and ensuring the CHES\* and MCHES\* certifications remain the gold standard in the Health Education and Promotion profession.

## 2019 Fall Conference Schedule

Mark your calendars for opportunities to earn continuing education contact hours. For more information on these conferences, visit the organizations' website.

ORGANIZATION	DETAILS	DATES	LOCATION
Coalition for Health Funding / Public Health Fair*	<a href="http://www.publichealthfunding.org">www.publichealthfunding.org</a> <i>*No CECH at this event</i>	September 12, 2019	Washington, DC
American School Health Association (ASHA) Annual Conference	<a href="http://www.ashaweb.org">www.ashaweb.org</a>	October 2-4, 2019	Cincinnati, OH
20th Annual Advocacy Summit (SOPHE)	<a href="http://www.sophe.org/advocacy">www.sophe.org/advocacy</a>	October 19-21, 2019	Washington, DC
American Public Health Association Annual Conference (APHA)	<a href="http://www.apha.org/">www.apha.org/</a>	November 2-6, 2019	Philadelphia, PA