Potential Careers

NMU’s Community Health Education Program prepares students for employment in the following employment settings:

Employment Settings

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Corporate Wellness
- Health Clubs
- Health Education Consultant
- Hospitals
- Lifestyle Coach
- Peace Corps Member
- Red Cross
- State and Local Health Departments

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
- Academic & Career Advisement Center
  3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
  906-227-2971
  www.nmu.edu/acac

- School of Health and Human Performance
  201 PEIF
  906-227-2130
  www.nmu.edu/hhp

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
- Career Services
  3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
  906-227-2800
  www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
- Center for Student Enrichment
  1206 University Center
  906-227-2439
  www.nmu.edu/cse

- Health Promotions Society
  http://myweb.nmu.edu/~hps/HPIndex.htm

Internet Resource Links:
- www.careers.org
- www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
- www.efusion.sph.emory.edu/PHEC/phec.cfm Public Health Employment Connection

- www.nchec.org The National commission for Health Education Credentialing

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center

Community Health Education
**Community Health Education**

Do you have an interest in working with all types of people in various settings? Are you interested in facilitating positive life-style choices for individuals and community groups? If so, then Community Health Education may be the major for you.

NMU’s School of Health and Human Performance offers several programs including Community Health Education. This major is not associated with the Education Department and no teacher certification (needed to teach in schools) is awarded. The Health Education major at NMU is designed to promote the development of health literacy and proficiency with the Certified Health Education Specialist competencies preparing students for entry level education/health promotion positions. Through behavior change models, students learn how to affect the health knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of various target populations in a variety of settings (worksites, schools, hospitals/clinics, public health agencies, health clubs, geriatric centers, and others).

**Skills and Competencies**

Following completion of the Community Health Education degree, students are encouraged to take the Certified Health Education Specialist exam. This exam is given by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing and tests for entry-level health education/health promotion competencies. As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for Community Health Educators.

Students pursuing a degree in Community Health Education may choose to join the Health Promotion Society (HPS). HPS is a dynamic student group that organizes and promotes activities that facilitate health both on and off campus.

**Course Work**

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

**Health Core**
- HL 101 Medical Terminology for Health Educators (1 cr.)
- HL 110 Intro to Health & Fitness Education (2 cr.)
- HL 111 Personal Wellness (4 cr.)
- HL 240 Community Health (4 cr.)
- HL 242 Emergency Health Care (2 cr.)
- HL 250 Applied Health Theory (2 cr.)
- HL 311 Health Communication (2 cr.)
- HL 367 Planning & Evaluation in Health & Fitness (4 cr.)
- HL 430 Grant Writing for Health Educators (2 cr.)
- HL 440 Critical Issues in Health Education (3 cr.)
- HL 460 Human Disease Education (4 cr.)
- HL Elective (8 cr.)

**Other required courses**
- BI 104 Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 cr.)
- CH 105 Chemical Principles (4 cr.) or CH 111 General Chemistry I (5 cr.)
- HN 210 Nutrition for Humans (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).

**Career Development**

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

**Additional Considerations**

Take advantage of internship opportunities. Successful completion of the Certified Health Education Specialist Exam will enhance your opportunities for employment in community health.

Flexibility within the Community Health Education degree allows for a double minor. Consider a minor or a cluster of classes to facilitate your work as a Community Health Educator in an entrepreneurial business setting.

There are many options in regard to graduate school for Community Health Educators. You may want to look into a dual Peace Corps/Master’s in Public Health Degree. Be sure that you complete entrance exams/applications for graduate school early.

**Job Outlook**

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicants work experience and initiative, and usually range from $25,000 to $50,000. The field is expected to grow by 26% and is considered faster than average in regards to growth and opportunity. The increased need for health care has likewise increased the need for workers in the field.