



# Eta Sigma Gamma

National Professional Health Education Honorary

Qualified Health Education Specialist Resolution  
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*Whereas*, health education is essential to preventing disease and injury by influencing behaviors, systems, environments, and policies (Society for Public Health Education, 2017), and

*Whereas*, the U.S. Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) defines health education specialists as those that provide and manage health education programs that help individuals, families, and their communities maximize and maintain healthy lifestyles (NCHEC, n.d.a; BLS, 2017), and

*Whereas*, health education specialists collect and analyze data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies, and environments (NCHEC, n.d.a; BLS, 2017), and

*Whereas*, health education specialists serve as resource to assist individuals, other health professionals, or the community, and administer fiscal resources for health education programs (CNHEO, 2011; NCHEC, n.d.b), and

*Whereas*, the health education profession has a proud history of scientifically validating the competencies that have become the basis of the professional credential(s), professional preparation, and professional development (NCHEC, n.d.c), and

*Whereas*, certification establishes national standard of practice for all health education specialists; attests to the individual health education specialists' knowledge and skills; assists employers in identifying qualified health education practitioners; develops a sense of pride and accomplishment among certified health education specialists; and promotes continued professional development for health education specialists (NCHEC, n.d.a), and

*Whereas*, health education specialists play a critical role in reducing health care costs and improving health outcomes in a wide variety of settings, including P-12 schools, universities, clinics, hospitals, worksites, military venues, health departments, and voluntary organizations (APHA, 2015), now, therefore, let it be

*Resolved* that Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG), recommends to employers that all position descriptions with primary health education responsibilities state preferences for candidates with competence demonstrated through:

1. Graduation from a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited school or program at the doctoral, masters, or undergraduate levels.
2. Graduation from an accredited program for teacher education in health education at the masters and baccalaureate levels.
3. Graduation from formerly SOPHE/AAHE Baccalaureate Program Approval Committee (SABPAC) approved health education program at the baccalaureate level.

4. Credentialing as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) at the entry level or Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) at the advanced-level of health education (Society for Public Health Education, 2017).

### References

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