



Health Careers In Alaska

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Health Educator

Health educators use educational processes to promote health and influence human well-being in a variety of school, community, workplace, and medical care settings. They promote good health by educating the public about the causes of disease and the means of prevention on a community-wide level. Health educators may also provide counseling, plan and evaluate programs, and organize community efforts.

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. adopted seven responsibility areas that a health educator should possess:

- Assessing individual and community needs for health education
- Planning effective health education programs
- Implementing health education programs
- Evaluating effectiveness of health education programs
- Coordinating provision of health education services
- Acting as a resource person in health education
- Communicating health and health education needs, concerns and resources
- Additional competencies may be necessary, depending on the health educator's responsibility area.

Health Educator Facts:

Where do health educators work in Alaska?

Health educators in Alaska are employed by public health departments, schools, Native health corporations, and community, government, or voluntary agencies.

Educational Requirements

The minimum educational requirement is usually a four-year baccalaureate degree, with a minimum of 25 semester hours (or 37 quarter hour credits) for a health education emphasis. The transcript will typically indicate a major degree program in community health education, health education, public health education, or school health education.

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a four-year college degree with an emphasis in health education.
- Some health educators complete a one or two year Master's degree program in health education.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$13.65-\$31.49 (Mean \$20.49)
**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

4 years or more (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. This degree currently has a physician assistant tract, but other tracts in the health promotion field are under development. UAA also has a Master of Public Health Practice program that is offered through distance delivery.

For more information, contact:

University of Alaska Anchorage
Department of Health Sciences
Rhonda Johnson, DrPH, MPH, FNP
Phone: (907) 786-6545
Website: <http://health.uaa.alaska.edu/dept/degrees.htm>

State Contacts:

Alaska Health Education Consortium
Web site: <http://www.ahecalaska.org/>

Alaska Health Education Library Project- (AHELP)
Website: <http://www.ahelp.org/>

National Contacts:

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
Web site: <http://www.nchec.org/>

American Public Health Association (APHA)
Website: <http://www.apha.org>

