



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCE

Bachelor of Community Health (Overview)

The Department of Health Science offers a degree program leading to a Bachelor of Community Health (BCH). This program is one of approximately a dozen in the nation meeting the stringent accreditation requirements for SABPAC Approval. Approval is a designation awarded by the joint committee of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the American Association for Health Education (AAHE). SABPAC Approval is recognized by the profession as a standard for entry-level health education preparation programs.

Effective communication skills and an enjoyment of working with people can lead you to a promising career as a community health educator. Hospitals, managed care organizations, state public health offices, senior citizens' centers, and corporations all hire graduates of the NMSU program.

As a health educator, you may develop and present programs on such topics as nutrition, HIV prevention, stress management, prenatal care, fitness education, sexual health, and substance abuse. Graduates are qualified to participate in the Certified Health Education Specialist examination given annually by the National Commission on Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

The overall goal of the Bachelor of Community Health program is to educate and train the enrolled students to become community health education specialists.

The objectives of the Bachelor of Community Health program are to:

- Prepare individuals for careers in community and public health programs and education in voluntary, private, and governmental agencies.
 - Encourage and promote health education within the framework of legal, ethical, moral and professional standards.
 - Prepare individuals for successful participation in the professional certification examination process.
 - Provide leadership within the health education profession.
 - Collaborate with other professionals, staff, communities, and consumers in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of health education programs.
 - Conduct and incorporate research findings in health education into practice settings.
 - Develop a commitment to intellectual inquiry, self-directed learning, and professional growth.
 - Promote undergraduate education as a basis for graduate study.
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