

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

## Aging Studies Specialization

### Mission Statement

*The vision of the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science is to distinguish the department as a premier creative, student-centered academic division focused on service-learning. The strength of the Department is the complimentary relationships between academic programs represented through creative, traditional and non-traditional curricula and course delivery. This cooperative unity positions our Department as a nationally recognized model in the health and physical education, leisure, and exercise science fields. The mission of the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science is to build a foundation of health, leisure, and exercise science knowledge and to prepare students with professional skills and analytical abilities to assume prominent positions in health, leisure, and exercise science across the state and nation.*

### Student Learning Outcomes for Aging Studies Specialization

Students with a UWF Masters in Community Health Education program, Aging Studies Specialization should be able to:

#### Content

- Identify, analyze, and synthesize health education concepts, principles, and theories as they apply to aging studies
- Explain and apply health education terminology
- Apply health education concepts from disciplinary knowledge (history of health education, epidemiology, health program planning and evaluation, physiological and psychology aspects of aging, health care policy, and related course work) when planning, implementing and evaluating health programs
- Articulate the interdisciplinary nature of aging by outlining the various aspects of successful aging (psychological, physiological, and social)
- Describe professional careers in health education with aging emphasis

#### Critical Thinking

- Assess individual and community needs for health promotion and planning targeting aging population
- Compare and contrast health promotion planning models and theories for application in aging population

- Critically examine and evaluate original research related to health education
- Apply appropriate research principles and methods in health education and gerontology

## **Communication**

- Apply theories and conceptual frameworks in the development of health education programs and materials
- Present ideas clearly, effectively, and elegantly in written and oral communications
- Exhibit effective interpersonal communication
- Develop persuasive arguments for adopting health maintenance strategies
- Organize and facilitate groups, coalitions, and partnerships
- Develop and apply networking skills to develop and maintain consultative relationships

## **Integrity/Values**

- Develop community health education programs that promote cultural competence and ethical practice of health education.
- Articulate professional standards outlined in Code of Ethics for Health Education Profession<sup>1</sup>
- Integrate competencies established by the National Commission of Health Education Credentialing into the practice of health education.
- Assume responsibility for advancing the profession of health education

## **Project Management**

- Develop skills related to the administration of health promotion programs targeting aging populations.
- Design and implement health promotion programs with specified program goal(s)
- Formulate appropriate and measurable program objectives
- Assess, select, and apply technologies that will contribute to program objectives
- Evaluate effectiveness of individual/community health education programs.
- Coordinate the provision of health education services specific to older adults.

## **Assessment Plan**

Health Education faculty members are committed to assess students' progress toward fulfillment of Student Learning Objectives for the Masters in Community Health Education, Aging Studies Specialization in the following ways: examinations, individual and group projects, in-class presentations, and development of research proposals. Additional assessment will include a capstone experience that is completed as a course requirement, directed study, internship, and/or thesis. An Exit Survey will be completed by graduate students before graduation to assess their intellectual growth and professional development. Graduates of the Masters of Community Health Education, Aging Studies Specialization are also encouraged to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination.

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<sup>1</sup> The Coalition of National Health Education Organizations, Ethics Task Force, Retrieved November 16, 2004, [www.nche.org/aboutnche/ethics.htm](http://www.nche.org/aboutnche/ethics.htm).

## **Job Prospects for Masters of Community Health Education**

Masters of Community Health Education have many employment options or further education in their area of specialization:

Government Agencies

State and County Health Departments

Community Organizations

Non-Profit Organizations

School Settings

College and Universities

Health and Fitness Centers

Health Care Settings

Corporate Worksite Wellness Settings

*Find out more about the Master of Science in Community Health Education Program with an Aging Studies specialization at UWF:*

<http://uwf.edu/hles>