

Health Education Specialists – Psychology BA / Education Minor

Median Salary: \$59,990 per year

In May 2022, the median annual wages for Health Education Specialists in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:

Hospitals; state, local, and private	\$77,740
Government	61,650
Educational services; state, local, and private	57,390
Ambulatory healthcare services	56,910

Job Outlook: 7% percent growth from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations.

Job Description: Health education specialists teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop strategies to improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

Health education specialists typically do the following:

- Assess the health needs of individuals and communities
- Develop programs, materials, and events to teach people about health topics, such as managing existing conditions
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and educational materials
- Help people find health services or information
- Provide training programs for community health workers or other healthcare providers
- Supervise staff who implement health education programs
- Collect and analyze data to learn about a particular community and improve programs and services
- Advocate for improved health resources and policies that promote health

Health education specialists have different duties depending on where they work. The following are descriptions of duties for health education specialists, by work setting:

- In **healthcare facilities**, health education specialists may work one-on-one with patients or their families. They teach patients about their diagnoses and treatment options. They also lead efforts to develop and administer surveys for identifying health concerns in the community and to develop programs that meet those needs. For example, they may help to organize blood-pressure screenings or classes on proper installation of car seats. Health education specialists also create programs to train medical staff to interact more effectively with patients.
- In **nonprofits**, health education specialists create programs and materials about health issues in the community they serve. They help organizations obtain funding, such as through grants for promoting health and disease awareness. They also educate

policymakers about ways to improve public health. In nonprofits that focus on a particular disease or audience, health education specialists tailor programs to meet those needs.

- In **public health departments**, health education specialists develop public health campaigns on topics such as emergency preparedness, immunizations, or proper nutrition. They also develop materials for use in the community and by public health officials. Some health education specialists collaborate with other workers, such as on statewide or local committees, to create public policies on health and wellness topics. They may also oversee grants and grant-funded programs to improve the public health.

Health education specialists create workplace programs or suggest modifications that focus on wellness. For example, they may develop incentives for employees to adopt healthy behaviors, such as controlling cholesterol, or recommend changes in the workplace to improve employee health, such as creating smoke-free areas.

For information about workers who promote wellness and coordinate care for different populations, see the profile on community health workers. For information about workers who teach health classes in middle and high schools, see the profiles on middle school teachers and high school teachers.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm#tab-1>

Suggested Degree Plan: This suggested plan is not a guarantee of employment.

FIRST YEAR - FALL	15	FIRST YEAR - SPRING	15
English Composition (EC): ENG 125	3	English Composition (EC): ENG 126	3
Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	4	Life & Physical Science (LPS)	3
Scientific World (SW): PSY 102	3	World Culture & Global Issues (WCGI)	3
College Option: HE 111	3	PSY 226	3
Student Development 110 (recommended)	2	Area Studies: PSY Elective	3

SECOND YEAR - FALL	15	SECOND YEAR - SPRING	15
College Option: Foreign Language†	3	College Option: Foreign Language	3
Individual & Society (IS)	3	College Option: Writing Intensive (WI)	3
US Experience in its Diversity (USED)	3	Additional Flexible Core Course	3
Writing Intensive (WI): PSY 330 WI	3	PSY 362	3
Area Studies: PSY Elective	3	Area Studies: PSY Elective	3

THIRD YEAR - FALL	15	THIRD YEAR - SPRING	15
Creative Expression (CE)	3	Writing Intensive (WI)	3
PSY 430	3	Area Studies: PSY Elective	3
Area Studies: PSY Elective	3	PSY Elective	3
Minor Course or Free Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3
Minor Course or Free Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3

FOURTH YEAR - FALL	15	FOURTH YEAR - SPRING	15
PSY Elective	3	PSY Elective	3
PSY Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3
Minor Course or Free Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3
Minor Course or Free Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3
Minor Course or Free Elective	3	Minor Course or Free Elective	3

Psychology Electives:

PSY215	Human Development
PSY232	Social Psychology
PSY238	Abnormal Psychology
PSY319	Human Cognitive Laboratory
PSY321	Psychology of Learning Laboratory

Education Minor

SOC 202	Major Ideas and Issues in Education
PSY 216	Human Development II: Adolescence/Maturity
EDUC 230	Teaching with Multimedia Technology
EDUC 283	Educational Psychology: Effective Teaching & Learning in Diverse Classrooms
EDUC 268	Bilingual and English Language Learner (ELL) Education