



# HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

## Health Educator

This profession is also known as:

- health promoter
- health care planner
- health program coordinator
- health promotion specialist

What is a health educator?

Health educators teach people about illness prevention, and what they should do to have a healthy lifestyle.



What are the main duties of a health educator?

Health educators:

- Develop, implement, monitor and evaluate health promotion strategies and programs.
- Design and facilitate workshops with community members on health-related issues.
- Provide support to individual clients with health issues, such as pregnancy, childbirth, infant care or disabilities.
- Develop information and educational materials about healthy lifestyles for clients.
- Give the public information about where they can get health and social services.
- Work with various organizations, governmental bodies, community and social groups.
- Use presentation and word-processing software.

What personal characteristics or desired traits should I have for this work?

You must:

- Understand health and medical terminology.
- Explain health concepts to clients and the public using easy-to-understand language.
- Be very accurate in your work, as it's often a matter of client and public safety.
- Have strong planning and organizational skills.
- Have good leadership and research skills.
- Work well with other people and on your own.



## Where do Health Educators Work?

Health educators work in community agencies, government agencies, schools, hospitals, research institutes, or professional organizations.

What are the typical work conditions?

- Usually work in office settings, weekdays, with no shift work.
- May travel to other locations to provide presentations, attend meetings.

## What qualifications do I need?

- A bachelor's degree or college diploma in health science, public administration, recreation administration or hospital administration, or a bachelor's degree in social science, is required.
- A graduate degree in health, social science or an administrative discipline may be required.
- Several years of experience in the health field as a health care professional or as a community or social service worker are usually required.

## What communication skills do I need?

You need good interpersonal skills to:

- Communicate in person, on the phone and in writing with the public and other health care staff.
- Convey accurate oral, written and/or electronic information in notes, reports and presentations.

## What wage can I expect for this work?

- Average Canadian hourly wage Low 18.00 Median 34.00 High 51.25  
[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?lang=eng&noc=4165&reportOption=wage](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?lang=eng&noc=4165&reportOption=wage)
- Career Outlook  
[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?noc=4165&reportOption=outlook](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=4165&reportOption=outlook)

## Are there opportunities for advancement?

- Progression to managerial positions is possible with experience.

## Learn more about health educators by visiting these sites.

Health Educators may specialize in a particular area of health policy development, research or programs such as addictions, mental health care, chronic diseases etc.

- National Occupation code 4165  
The government of Canada has given a code to this profession. Use the code to learn more about health care educators.  
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/QuickSearch.aspx?val65=4165>

## References

- National Occupational Classification, 2011 (NOC 4165) 7/4/16
- [www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)
- [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)
- [http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job\\_search\\_results.do?searchstring=4165&button.submit=Search](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search_results.do?searchstring=4165&button.submit=Search)