The average Purdue Global military student is awarded 54% of the credits needed for an associate's and 45% of the credits needed for a bachelor's. Most Commonly Searched: Most Commonly Searched: A good health education specialist has a passion for helping others lead healthy lives and make smart lifestyle choices. Job prospects are increasing for health education specialists, and certification may be required or preferred by some employers. This guide explains the health education career field and what to know if you’re considering becoming certified. “Health education specialists develop, implement, and/or facilitate health education programs within a community,” says Brittny Bratcher-Rasmus, PhD, CHES®, faculty in the School of Health Sciences at Purdue Global. “They assess gaps in health-related knowledge and then develop and implement public health interventions using educational and promotional tactics.” There has been an increased focus on community-level preventive care and education in recent years. Bratcher-Rasmus says the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to this increase. “The pandemic highlighted the need for prevention and education related to knowledge of how the COVID-19 virus is transmitted and the importance of vaccinations,” says Bratcher-Rasmus. “The pandemic also uncovered many chronic disease disparities in communities more prone to COVID-19 exposure based on many social and economic factors.” Implementing prevention and education programs helps communities lower various risk factors for chronic diseases and improves interactions between patients and providers in the health care setting. Health education specialists can work in many different settings, including: “This list is certainly not exhaustive, as health education specialists can work anywhere that promotes the health and well-being of people,” says Bratcher-Rasmus. Anyone who wants to make a difference in the health behaviors and health outcomes of people, communities, and populations would be a good fit for this field. “This individual consistently explores social determinants of health, health policy and advocacy, and health data to determine how to best meet the needs of communities to improve health behaviors and health outcomes,” says Bratcher-Rasmus. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of health education specialists will grow 7% from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations. According to Bratcher-Rasmus, factors that indicate rapid growth projection in the profession include: “The projected professional growth reflects a shift toward prioritizing health promotion, prevention, and public health,” says Bratcher-Rasmus. “As these aspects of health care and public health become increasingly recognized, the demand for skilled professionals in health education will continue to rise.” The terms “health education specialist” and “health educator” are used interchangeably in many settings as the roles and responsibilities are very similar. However, the two are not the same. “A health educator can be anyone in the health care or health care-related field from various educational backgrounds who promotes health and well-being on multiple levels or disciplines based on training,” says Bratcher-Rasmus. “Examples include community health workers (CHWs), nurse health educators, nutrition or dietician educators, and health teachers.”