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: Health educator is a broad term covering a variety of roles that create, implement, and oversee programs that promote health and well-being within a community. For those with a passion for health advocacy and helping the community, the work can be immensely fulfilling. Learn more about this growing field and the career opportunities that may be available to you with a degree in health education and promotion. The field is growing faster than average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): The BLS attributes much of this growth to the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. Taquina Davis, PhD, faculty in Purdue Global’s School of Health Sciences, believes an underlying shift within the industry is also contributing to the high demand. “The industry is increasingly recognizing the importance of improving the patient's experience with care, promoting the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of health care,” Davis says. “Health care systems are now asking, ‘How can we be more effective? How can we provide services, create change, and save money? How can we transform health care into health improvement?’” As the industry continues its efforts to better understand the factors and behaviors that comprise the social determinants of health, the demand for community health workers increases. A health education and promotion degree may prepare you for a career as a health educational specialist or a community health worker. These are two separate but related roles. According to the BLS: Health education specialists and community health workers can work in similar settings, including government agencies, social assistance organizations, hospitals, and outpatient care centers. Health education specialist. “This person creates and implements strategies to improve the health of individuals, communities, and organizations,” Davis says. “The education and training they offer complement the work of health care providers, policymakers, and human resources personnel.” Health education specialists typically need at least a bachelor’s degree. Community health worker. “A community health worker understands the communities they serve, which helps them serve as a liaison between the people of that community and the local health care and social services providers,” Davis says. “For example, they may oversee a diabetes prevention program. They may create the program’s educational materials, administer the program, test its effectiveness, and help people find diabetes health services or further information.” When hiring community health workers, some employers may require applicants to have a bachelor’s degree. Davis says this degree program is a good fit for someone who is: Able to assess the needs of the community. Being empathetic is essential. “They have to care about what a community needs and wants,” Davis says. “They need to be able to help people get access to information that relates to their health concerns.”