



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TAEA

UNDERSTANDING NCEA & BEYOND



What does NCEA stand for?

**National Certificate of
Educational Achievement**





NCEA History

- NCEA Certificates were introduced as New Zealand's main secondary school qualifications between 2002 - 2004.
- They grew out of a long-term intention to establish standards for national qualifications and recognise a wider range of skills and knowledge. A new set of qualifications was needed to reflect the more flexible learning environments in our schools.
- NCEA was designed to challenge all students, including the most able and highly motivated. It was also designed to give schools the flexibility to develop a range of programmes to suit the specific needs of their students.
- NCEA has been reviewed and refined since its initial implementation in 2002. NCEA results now show a rich and accurate picture of a students' skills and knowledge.



NCEA - What is it?

- NCEA is the national qualification for senior secondary students in NZ.
- It is NOT what students are taught – that is the New Zealand curriculum document.
- It is only about measuring what has been learned.
- The focus is on measuring learning, not ranking students.
- Students are measured against preset standards, rather than the achievement of other students.
- Results describe what a student can do, not where they fit into a ranked list of ‘marks’.



How is NCEA assessed?

- It is a mixture of:
 - External Achievement Standards
 - Internal Achievement Standards
 - Unit Standards
- With Achievement Standards you can reach Achieved, Achieved with Merit or Achievement with Excellence
- With Unit Standards you either get Achieved or Not Achieved
- Each standard is worth a certain number of credits. When you achieve a standard, these credits count towards your NCEA total.



What is a “standard”?

A standard is a description of what a student can do

- “Solve right-angled triangle problems”
- “Read, study and show understanding of extended written text(s)”
- “Prepare and present hot finger food in the hospitality industry”
- “Describe the market and market equilibrium”



What You Need For Each Level ...

- 60 credits at the Level (or above) of the qualification you are working towards
- Literacy or Te Reo Matatini – 10 credits from Literacy or Te Reo Matatini standards, or from a list of specified standards in a range of subjects
- Numeracy or Pāngarau – 10 credits from Numeracy or Pāngarau standards, or from a list of specified standards in a range of subjects.

You only need to meet the literacy or te reo matatini and numeracy or pāngarau requirements once, and you do not need to attempt them again for other levels of NCEA.



What Else is Changing (from 2024) ...

- Schools will use new standards when they develop courses for NCEA Level 1 in 2024, NCEA Level 2 in 2026 and NCEA Level 3 in 2027.
- There will still be exams at the end of the year, but you might also complete external assessments during the year (e.g. submitting reports, portfolios or kete manarua, or attempting Common Assessment Activities).
- More external assessments will be done online or uploaded to NZQA through their website.
- Literacy, numeracy, te reo matatini and pāngarau assessments may be offered from Year 9.



Certificate Endorsements

- Provides recognition for high achievement of an individual student.
- Excellence endorsement requires 50 Excellence credits at that level or above - “NCEA Level 1 with Excellence endorsement”
- Merit endorsement requires 50 Excellence or Merit credits at that level or above
- Credits can accumulate and do not have to be earned in the same year



University Entrance

This is the minimum standard you need to reach to apply for entrance to university and some other tertiary courses.

Universities and polytechnics name specific NCEA courses that students should complete and the minimum results required.

List of Approved subjects:

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-secondary-quals/university-entrance/ue-subjects/>



University Entrance Requirements

To be awarded UE you will need:

- **NCEA Level 3**
- **Three subjects** - at **Level 3**, made up of:
 - 14 credits in each of three **university approved subjects**
- **Literacy** - 10 credits at **Level 2 or above**, made up of:
 - 5 credits in reading
 - 5 credits in writing
- **Numeracy** - 10 credits at **Level 1 or above**



What is “Scholarship”?

- A range of stand alone exams that can be taken at the end of the Level 3 year.
- An award, not a qualification. It does not generate credits for NCEA certificates.



Engineering

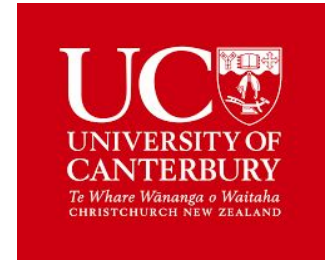
You should aim to have at least:

14 credits in Level 3 Maths or calculus including both differentiation and integration

14 credits in Level 3 Physics

14 credits in Level 3 Chemistry

18 credits are strongly recommended in all subjects.



Nursing



14 credits at level 3 in:

- English or an approved literacy subject
- Biology or physical education or chemistry
- One other approved subject

And • Numeracy – 14 credits at Level 1 or above

Hospitality



Students are required to have UE.

To gain University Entrance (UE) you need:

- NCEA Level 3
- Approved subjects: 14 credits in each of three approved subjects at Level 3
- Literacy requirement: 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing
- Numeracy requirement: 10 credits at Level 1 or above, made up of achievement standards in a range of subjects



Dance

Preference will be given to students who have attained NCEA Level 1 and who have reached a level in classical ballet equivalent to RAD Advanced 1 (IDTA Advanced level 1, BBO Advanced 1, Cecchetti Advanced 1, BAL Intermediate).

**NEW
ZEALAND
SCHOOL
OF
DANCE**

Kia kōrero te katoa
o te tinana



Sport & Recreation

AUT
UNIVERSITY

NEW ZEALAND

To gain admission to bachelor's degrees, you must have met the requirements for University Entrance plus any specified admission requirements for a programme, such as specific subjects, portfolios and interviews.

Defence Forces

To apply for any career with us, you'll need to be:

- Medically and physically fit
- A New Zealand citizen, or New Zealand Permanent Resident visa holder
- Preferably free from criminal convictions (assessed on a case by case basis)
- At least 16.5 years old to submit an application. You must have turned 18 years old by the time you graduate from your recruit course.



Tourism



New Zealand
School of Tourism

Level 4 courses need:

- Applicants must have either NCEA Level 3, or University Entrance, or completed a Level 3 Certificate in Tourism or Travel or have equivalent knowledge and skills.

Health Sciences



UNIVERSITY
of
OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo
NEW ZEALAND

Health Sciences – Required Background Subjects to Year 13

	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Statistics	Calculus	Language-rich*	Other
Oral Health		14 credits L3				10 credits (5 reading, 5 writing from L2 or L3 English)	
Dental Technology	2019 for entrance 2020 14 credits in 2x Level 3 NCEA approved subjects from Science, Maths or Technology						
Radiation Therapy	16 Level 3 credits in: Physics or Biology / Maths or Calculus or Statistics / English or Te Reo or History or Art History or Classics or Geography						

Health Sciences – Recommended Background Subjects to Year 13

	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Statistics	Calculus	Language-rich*	Other
Health Sciences First Year	++	++	++	++	+	+	
Biomedical Sciences	++	++	++	+		+	
Bachelor of Health Sciences (all majors)		++		++		++	Sciences, Chem, Health



Web & Graphic Design



Students must:

- Have passed NCEA Level 3, or equivalent with at least one subject in a relevant field

OR • Provide examples of work demonstrating skills in web and graphic design (assessed by Graphic Design Head of Faculty)

OR • Have graduated from New Zealand Certificate in Creative Media (Level 4)

Creative Enterprise



- 42 credits at NCEA Level 3 or higher including:
14 credits in two different approved subjects; and 14 credits from up to two subjects (approved or non-approved)
- 8 credits at NCEA Level 2 or higher in English or Te Reo Maori (4 in reading, 4 in writing)
- 14 credits in NCEA Level 1 or higher in Mathematics
- You may be required to attend an interview or audition, submit a portfolio or a combination of all three.



Scholarships

https://www.careers.govt.nz/courses/scholarships/where-to-find-scholarships/#cID_6818

<https://studyspy.ac.nz/search/scholarships>

<https://www.careers.govt.nz/courses/scholarships/scholarships-for-maori-learners/>



Rank Scores for Auckland University

All applicants will be ranked on their best 80 credits (at Level 3) over a maximum of five approved subjects.

Rank Score

Excellence = 4

Merit = 3

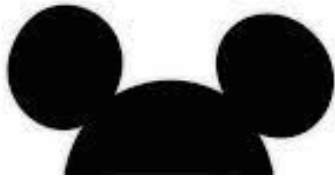
Achieved = 2

Therefore maximum total will be out of 320 ($80 \times 4 = 320$)

Keep Your Options Open!

IF YOU CAN
DREAM IT,
YOU CAN
DO IT.

- WALT DISNEY



Keep your options open, so that when the world surprises you, it won't be that surprising



More Information

NCEA www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea
Careers www.careers.govt.nz
Study Skills www.studyit.org.nz

Email:

Hilary Takarangi (SLT) hta@spotswoodcollege.school.nz

Scott Manson (HOD of VPG) smn@spotswoodcollege.school.nz

Chell Lusk (Careers Advisor) clu@spotswoodcollege.school.nz