



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

— Making Use of NCEA:
a Guide for Senior Students

Now you're a senior student, you'll want to make sure you get the most out of the qualifications you're doing at school.

In Years 12 and 13 you should start thinking about what areas you need to focus on for your future study or career. Your NCEA level 2 results are important – these are often used as part of the selection process by universities, polytechnics and employers. You may need to take particular level 3 standards as an entry requirement for some tertiary courses. If you have a career in mind, check out what standards you will need.



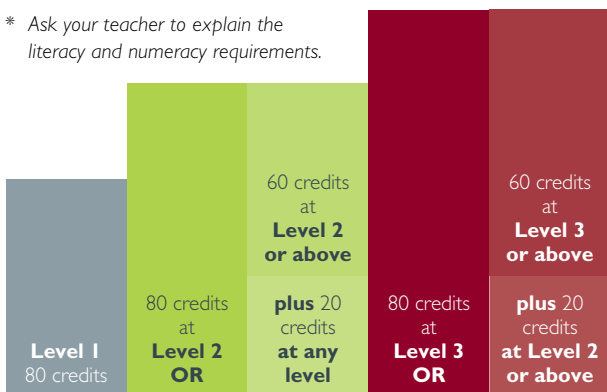
Requirements for NCEA Certificates

Level 1 – 80 credits at any level, including literacy and numeracy requirements*

Level 2 – 80 credits – a minimum of 60 of them at level 2 or above

Level 3 – 80 credits – a minimum of 60 of them at level 3 or above and 20 credits from level 2 or above.

* Ask your teacher to explain the literacy and numeracy requirements.



Recognising high achievement

NCEA can be 'endorsed' to reflect high achievement in a significant number of standards. There are two types of endorsement: Certificate Endorsement, and Course Endorsement which will be introduced in 2011.

Certificate Endorsement: If you gain 50 credits at Excellence your NCEA will be endorsed with Excellence. If you gain 50 credits at Merit (or a mix of Merit and Excellence) your NCEA will be endorsed with Merit.

Course Endorsement: If in a single year you gain 14 or more credits at Merit and/or Excellence for a course, you will gain endorsement in that course. This is new for all NCEA levels in 2011. At least 3 credits must be from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards in that course. (Note: this condition does not apply to Physical Education, Religious Studies or level 3 Visual Arts).

It's really worth striving to get Merit or Excellence grades to get this extra recognition of your abilities. Employers and tertiary institutions now consider how well you have achieved, rather than just the number of credits.

University Entrance

To qualify for entrance to a New Zealand university and some other tertiary institutions using NCEA you will need at least:

- Credit requirements – 42 credits at **Level 3 or higher**, made up of:
 - 14 credits in one approved subject
 - 14 credits in another approved subject
 - 14 credits from one or two additional domains or approved subjects
- Literacy requirements – 8 credits in English or Te Reo Māori at **Level 2 or higher**, made up of:
 - 4 credits in reading
 - 4 credits in writing
- Numeracy requirements – 14 credits in Numeracy at **Level 1 or higher**, made up of:
 - 14 credits in Mathematics or Statistics and Probability or Pāngarau

The lists of approved subjects and standards counting for literacy and numeracy are on the NZQA website.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE	Level 3 or higher 42 credits		
	14 credits in one "approved subject"	14 credits in another "approved subject"	14 credits from one or two additional domains or "approved subjects"
	Level 2 or higher		
	8 credits in English or Te Reo Māori (inc. 4 reading, 4 writing)		
	Level 1 or higher		
14 credits in Mathematics or Statistics and Probability or Pāngarau			

University Entrance requirements are being reviewed in 2010 but any changes won't be introduced until 2013. University Entrance is the minimum requirement for entry to university. Many universities and other tertiary course providers in New Zealand have specific course requirements. Merit and Excellence grades may give you a greater chance of getting into your chosen course. You may need to achieve particular level 3 standards as an entry requirement for some tertiary courses. Check out what standards you will need with the university or polytechnic where you intend to study.

New Zealand Scholarship

New Zealand Scholarship is externally assessed but it is not a qualification. It is designed to extend the very best students and to provide monetary awards to help with tertiary study.

Scholarship candidates are expected to demonstrate high-level critical thinking, abstraction and generalisation, and to integrate, synthesise and apply knowledge, skills, understanding and ideas to complex situations. The exams or portfolios cover the same knowledge, skills and concepts as level 3 achievement standards, but the standard of performance required is much higher.

In 2009, 2065 students gained a Scholarship Award from the almost 9000 who sat the examinations. Students receive payments ranging from \$500 (for a single subject Scholarship) to \$30,000 paid over three years for a Premier Award (eight were awarded in 2009).

If you think you have the ability to sit Scholarship in one or more subjects, you should discuss the requirements with your teachers.

Making use of your NCEA results

NCEA and other national certificates are recognised by employers, and used for selection purposes by universities and polytechnics. Employers generally require job candidates to have NCEA level 2. Independent research* has shown that performance in NCEA is a good indicator of success in the first year at university.

How will I get my results?

Your school should provide you with the results of your internal assessments as they are completed. Once they have reported these results to NZQA you will be able to see them by logging in to your learner home page on the NZQA website, using your unique National Student Number (NSN).

The results of external assessment for NCEA are released in January and in February for Scholarship. In 2011, for the first time, you will be able to see these results on your learner home page and you will receive a printed *Result Notice* shortly afterwards. The award of University Entrance is also recorded on the *Result Notice*.

There are two important documents that NZQA can provide. The *School Results Summary* (SRS) is generally intended for school leavers. It lists all the standards for which you have been assessed with the results, including Not Achieved results, grouped by year, subject and level. It also contains a detailed summary of your credits by subject and level.

The *Record of Achievement* (ROA) is intended to be a life-long record of your achievement and will grow as you gain new standards through tertiary study and industry training.

How do I get a printed notice or a certificate?

You can view the contents of your *Record of Achievement* at any time of the year by logging in to your learner home

* *The Predictability of Enrolment and First Year University Results from Secondary School Performance* (Starpath, University of Auckland, 2008).

page on the NZQA website, www.nzqa.govt.nz/login. This online version of your ROA is able to be filtered to show a selection of the standards achieved. This can be useful if you wish to copy and paste relevant achievements into your Curriculum Vitae.

You can print either your whole ROA or a selection directly from the website. In many cases this will be sufficient to meet your needs. However, if you require an official printed copy of your ROA you can request one on the login page of the NZQA website. A charge may be applicable.

From October 2010 you will be able request a *School Results Summary* in the same way although you will be able to print this information from the website if you do not need an official copy. All students are entitled to one free SRS; you may be charged for additional copies.

From 2011 certificates for NCEA and University Entrance will be printed on request, and they will be available from January.

Will NCEA be useful if I go overseas?

NCEA is New Zealand's national school-leaver qualification. NCEA is accepted overseas including by universities.

New Zealand qualifications are generally accepted in the United States, and in Australia and the United Kingdom (UK). NCEA level 3 is broadly equivalent to the UK's General Certificate of Education (GCE) A-level; and in Australia, the relevant state or territory Senior Secondary Certificate of Education.

NCEA level 3 results are used in the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank for entrance to all Australian universities. On receipt of your application, Australian Tertiary Admission centres will contact NZQA directly for your results from early in January.

If you are an international student studying in New Zealand, you should discuss your tertiary education plans with your teachers. They will help you plan the appropriate study at school.

More information

The Qualifications & Standards area on the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz is a useful source of information including:

- the exam timetable
- past exam papers.

NCEA	Talk to your school or contact NZQA: www.nzqa.govt.nz 0800 697 296
Careers Advice	Talk to a careers advisor at your school or contact Career Services: www.careers.govt.nz 0800 222 733
Qualifications	Compare all qualifications: www.nzqf.govt.nz Contact an industry training organisation: www.itf.org.nz
Study skills	Find what you need for NCEA study: www.studyit.org.nz

New Zealand Qualifications Authority
Freephone: 0800 697 296
Email: helpdesk@nzqa.govt.nz
www.nzqa.govt.nz

