



Scots College



EST.1916

NCEA information evening

Slides 1 – 16: general overview for those new to
NCEA

Slides 17 – 24: general course design and
university entrance requirements for current
Years 11 and 12

What is NCEA?

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

NCEA replaced

- School Certificate (in 2002)
- Sixth Form Certificate (in 2003)
- University Bursaries (in 2004)

More useful results than just one percentage

NCEA gives more detailed results about what students know and can do.

Results show:

- how well students can do separate skills
- how a student compares with others
- how well a student performs overall

Fair and balanced assessment

- Students still sit exams at the end of each year (external assessment)
- Some skills are assessed by the school (internal assessment)
- All subjects will have some internal assessment



Consistent standards

- Schools check teachers are fair & marking at national standard
- National panels check random samples of marked student work from every school
- Checks are made to ensure schools are accurate and at the same standard as other schools



Using standards based assessment

NCEA

- uses standards to show what students know and can do
- standards describe the level of work students need to produce
- grades are reported for each skill - achieved, merit, excellence



Standards contributing to the NCEA (from 2011 at Level One)

Curriculum Standards		Industry and other standards (eg: Workshop technology)	
Achievement Standards		Unit Standards	
Internal AND external	Not Achieved Achieved Merit Excellence	Internal only	No Credit Credit



What is a credit?

- Every standard is worth a set number of credits
- Credits are like points towards a qualification
- Most full year courses at Year 11 will offer between 20 to 22 credits
- Therefore a full course equates to about 120 – 130 credits



Gaining credits

- 80 credits = National Certificate of Educational Achievement at Level 1
- Must include **ten** credits in reading, writing and **ten** credits in number skills needed for Level 1 NCEA



Showing off your NCEA

- Universities and other tertiary institutions use the NCEA
- NCEA is recognised overseas
- Employers use NCEA



What will happen if I can't get achieved on my first attempt?

- Some achievement standards have one reassessment or further assessment opportunity
- These are identified in course outlines issued at the start of each year



- **COURSE DESIGN Years 11 – 13**

ABILITY + INTEREST = SUCCESS

Consider:

- Potential career choices
- Pathways – where does the subject lead?
- Balanced program



Career considerations

- Most Scots students look at tertiary study

Medicine – sciences, calculus

Law – humanities, languages

Architecture – sciences (esp physics, calculus, graphics and/or art design)

Accountancy – statistics, accounting



Pathways – where do subjects lead

Year 11 maths – Year 12 maths (algebra-rich) –
Year 13 calculus or statistics

Year 11 English and Year 12 English compulsory
but Year 13 English literature not mandatory

Year 12 Visual arts – Year 13 specialist art
subjects

Year 12 and 13 PE is mainly theory-based – not
recreation!

Year 11 sciences (Bio/Chem and Phys/Chem) –
single subject sciences at Year 12 (**NB:
students wanting only Chemistry at Y12 will
need to take both courses**)



New courses at different year levels

Year 11 – more science specialisation,
history, geography, accounting, economics

Year 12 – classical studies, digital
technology, statistics

Year 13 – art history, painting, photography,
calculus



Balanced program

Consider:

- Compulsory subjects at years 11 and 12 (English and maths)
- A science is preferable at Year 11
- Passions in arts and technology should be maintained where possible
- Humanities useful for many tertiary courses or as English-rich alternative at Y13
- Language learning needs to be maintained

Pitfalls

- Do NOT be lured by wholly internally-assessed courses – their workload is often more demanding over the course of the year
- Courses that have lots of Unit Standards to do not count towards Grade Point Averages (GPA's) for school prizes and awards and limit University Entrance



University Entrance Requirements from 2004 – MINIMUM

14 credits at
Level 3 or higher
In an approved
subject

14 credits at
Level 3 or higher
in
No more than 2
Domains or
Approved
subjects

14 credits
at Level 3
or higher
In an approved
subject



University Requirements (contd.)

- 14 credits in Mathematics at level one or higher
- 4 credits at level two or above in Reading
- 4 credits at level two or above in Writing
- Credits can be accumulated over more than one year





BUT:

- Many universities have adopted a points system for 2011 whereby the minimum UE requirement will no longer guarantee you a course
- In effect 60-70 credits at Level 3 will become the minimum UE entry requirement with the earlier provisos still standing



AIM HIGH, ACHIEVE BETTER

- Year 11 students should be wary of accepting ‘achieved’ as a good pass – think: “**Merit is the new achieved**”
- The standard only gets harder as you go up the levels
- The better your Year 11 results, the more likely you will handle the subsequent jumps in difficulty