

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT : NCEA

NCEA uses **standards** to show what a student knows and can do. Teachers will be able to explain to students exactly what they have to do to achieve a standard.

Some skills will be assessed by **Unit Standards**. These are **all internally assessed**, and students can gain **credit only**. Unit Standards have been used in schools and industry for some years.

Other knowledge or skills are assessed by **Achievement Standards** in which students can gain **Achievement, Achievement with Merit, Achievement with Excellence**. Some Achievement Standards such as formal speech making, research, experimental work and practical skills are **internally assessed**. Achievement Standards which can be effectively assessed by written tests will be **externally assessed** by examinations at the end of the year. Art portfolios, technology projects and musical performance will not be assessed by examination but they will be externally assessed, that is, by people from outside the school.

Instead of students receiving one mark for a subject at the end of the year eg 62% in Mathematics, they will be given a **set of results for each subject** showing exactly what level skills and knowledge a student possesses eg Excellence in Number, Merit in Measurement and Geometry, Achieved in Algebra, Trigonometry and Statistics, Not Achieved in Probability and Graphing.

Each standard has a set number of **credits**. Standards have different credit values depending on the amount of learning involved. In Art 101 for example, the portfolio represents about half of the year's work and so has 12 credits. Credits are like points towards a qualification. Year 11 students studying 6 subjects may be given the opportunity to enter for over 120 credits.

NCEA LEVEL 1

To gain **NCEA Level 1** students need to have **80 credits** from either Achievement or Unit Standards. They need to prove that they have sound reading and writing skills and that they can work with numbers, so students must have fulfilled the **Literacy** and **Numeracy** requirements. For 2012 requirements may be met in two ways only:

10 credits gained from Achievement Standards from a variety of curriculum areas.

10 credits gained from three specific Unit Standards.

This is true for both Literacy and Numeracy.

Your English and Mathematics teachers for 2011 will advise which pathway you will be following.

Students who do not gain the 80 credits necessary for NCEA Level 1 in Year 11 can use standards gained in Years 12 and 13 to complete the qualification.

At Year 11 all students must study English, Mathematics and Science at a suitable level. In November HOD's will formally suggest to students and parents which level is most suitable. Students also study **three other subjects** of their choice.

NCEA LEVEL 2

To gain **NCEA Level 2** students need to have **60 credits from Level 2 or above** from either Achievement or Unit Standards **and 20 credits from Level 1 or above** (these could have already been used to obtain NCEA Level 1).

At Year 12 all students study **English and Mathematics** at a suitable level, **four other subjects** of their choice and follow an **Activities** course one afternoon each week.

NCEA LEVEL 3

To gain **NCEA Level 3** students need to gain **60 credits from Level 3 or above**, and **20 credits from Level 2 or above** (these could have already been used to obtain NCEA Level 2)

At Year 13 students must study **either**:

Five subjects of their choice if at least four are 301 subjects which have a personal study expectation. These students will have six supervised study periods during the week.

Or

Six subjects of their choice **if studying less than four 301 subjects with personal study expectations**.

When choosing courses Year 13 students must be aware of the requirements for university entrance and entrance to other tertiary courses. They may need to complete a Level 2 English course in Year 13 to gain the necessary Reading and Writing standards.

CERTIFICATE ENDORSEMENT

At each level a student may have their NCEA endorsed with Merit (if they achieve 50 or more Credits at that level with Merit or Excellence) or with Excellence (if they achieve 50 or more Credits at that level with Excellence).

COURSE ENDORSEMENT

If a student gains 14 credits in one subject (3 of which must be from an internal and 3 from an external assessment) at Merit or Excellence Level, they will gain Merit endorsement for that course (subject). Similarly, 14 credits at Excellence level will give you Excellence endorsement for that course (subject).

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

New UE requirements from 2014 [i.e. for Year 11 students in 2012]	Current UE requirements [i.e. for Year 12 and 13 students in 2012]
Achievement of NCEA Level 3	42 credits at Level 3 or above
14 credits in each of three subjects from the list of approved subjects	14 credits in each of two subjects from the list of approved subjects
	14 credits from not more than two additional domains or approved subjects
UE numeracy – 10 credits at Level 1 or above from specified achievement standards or three specific numeracy unit standards	UE numeracy – 14 credits at Level 1 or above from Mathematics, Statistics and Probability, and P ŋgarau
UE Literacy – 10 credits [five in reading and five in writing] from Specific Level 2 and above Achievement Standards, or specific Te Reo M ōri and Te Reo Rangatira Level 2 and above Standards, or Two specific Level 4 English for academic purposes Unit Standards, or An academic literacy common assessment tool [CAT] at Level 3 [no credit value, run by NZQA].	UE Literacy – 8 credits [four reading and four writing from a specific list of standards] at Level 2 or above from English or Te Reo M ōri

NB. This is the absolute minimum requirement for University Entrance but it does not guarantee students a place at a university. Each University has different entry criteria to specific courses.

OTAGO UNIVERSITY

Preferential Entry (i.e. guaranteed entry) will be given to students who have one of the following:

- NCEA Level 2 with Merit or Excellence and gain Level 3 University Entrance.
- A Level 3 score of 140 points from their best 80 credits in Approved subjects. [No more than 24 credits in one subject can be counted.] Credits at Excellence are worth 4 points each, credits at Merit are worth 3 points each and credits at Achieved are worth 2 points each.
- Have accepted a University of Otago undergraduate scholarship.
- Are Maori or Pacifica students.
- Have accepted a place in a Otago University residential college.

Competitive Entry

Students who do not gain **Preferential Entry** but do have University Entrance will be ranked according to academic performance and other relevant criteria then offered available places in order of priority.

Approved Subjects for University Entrance

Accounting	Agriculture & Horticulture	Biology
Chemistry	Chinese	Dance
Computing	Cook Islands Māori	Economics
Design (Practical Art)	Drama	Geography
English	French	Health Education
German	Graphics	Indonesian
History	History of Art	Latin
Japanese	Korean	Media Studies
Mathematics with Calculus	Statistics and Modelling	Photography (Practical Art)
Music Studies	Painting (Practical Art)	Printmaking (Practical Art)
Physical Education	Physics	Sculpture (Practical Art)
Samoan	Science	Technology
Spanish	Social Studies	
Te Reo Rangatira or Te Reo Maori		

Business Studies, Education for Sustainability, Home Economics and Religious Studies will be included in 2012

If you have any questions or need clarification please contact Mrs Shields, the Careers Advisor.

Students will also be able to enter **New Zealand Scholarship** in some subjects by sitting external examinations at the end of Year 13 at the same time as Level 3 assessments. In general the content will be the same as covered for Level 3 Achievement Standards but will assess a student's ability to synthesise and integrate concepts.

Further information about qualifications can be found on
www.nzqa.govt.nz or NCEA Helpline :
 0800 NCEA HELP - 0800 623243

This is to help you plan your courses over all your senior years.

REASONS FOR MY SUBJECT CHOICES

Name: _____ Year: _____

	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5	Subject 6
YEAR 11	English	Maths	Science			
<i>My reason for this choice</i>						
	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>
YEAR 12	English	Maths				
	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>	↓ <i>Could lead to</i>
YEAR 13						
	<i>Required/useful for</i>	<i>Required/useful for</i>	<i>Required/useful for</i>	<i>Required/useful for</i>	<i>Required/useful for</i>	<i>Required/useful for</i>
My career ideas						