



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 ensure you're getting the most out of the qualifications you earn while at school.

In Year 12 and 13 you should start thinking about what areas you need to focus on for your future study or career. Your 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 particular career in mind, check out what standards you will need (see back page, More information).

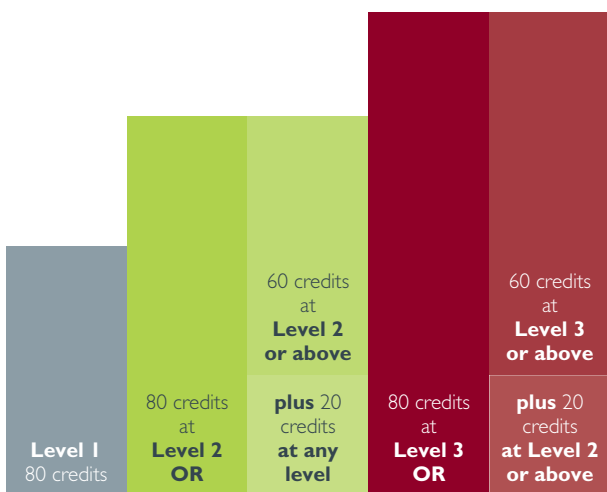


Requirements for NCEA Certificates

Level 1 – 80 credits at any level, including 8 in literacy (English or te reo Māori) and 8 in numeracy (Mathematics).

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

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



Recognising high achievement

You will probably know that you can earn NCEA certificates with Merit or Excellence endorsements. If you gain enough credits for your NCEA and 50 or more are at Excellence, you will earn an NCEA with an Excellence endorsement. If you get 50 or more credits at Merit (or a mix of Merit and Excellence), you will earn an NCEA with a Merit endorsement.

It's really worth striving to get Merit or Excellence grades to get this extra recognition of your abilities. Employers and course providers are increasingly now looking at 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 course providers using NCEA you will need at least:

- Level 3 or higher – 42 credits, including a minimum of 14 credits in each of two subjects from the “approved subjects” list; with a further 14 credits from not more than two additional domains on the National Qualifications Framework or “approved subjects” AND
- Level 2 or higher – 8 credits in English or Te Reo Māori; 4 credits must be in reading and 4 in writing. These are selected from a list of approved standards AND
- Level 1 or higher – 14 credits in Mathematics or Pāngarau.

University Entrance	Level 3 or higher 42 credits		
	14 credits in one “approved subject”	14 credits in one “approved subject”	14 credits from not more than two additional domains on the NQF 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 Pāngarau			

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 will 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. You should discuss these with the institution that you intend to study further with.



New Zealand Scholarship

New Zealand Scholarship is externally assessed and is designed to extend the very best students and to provide grants to help with tertiary study.

Students sitting Scholarship will be assessed on their ability to think laterally and in the abstract. 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 2008, 2038 students earned Scholarship in one or more subjects. Ten students received a Premier Award (worth \$10,000 each year for three years) and a further 47 received an Outstanding Scholar Award (worth \$5000 each year for three years). There is a minimum criteria for consideration for these top awards and achieving the minimum for consideration does not guarantee an award.

If you'd like to sit Scholarship in one or more subjects, you should discuss requirements with your teachers.

How will my results be recognised when I leave school?

NCEA and other national certificates are recognised by employers, and used as the benchmark for selection by universities and polytechnics. NCEA level 2 has the foundation skills required for employment. Independent research has shown that performance in NCEA is a good indicator of success at first-year university. Internal assessment throughout the year mirrors tertiary study and workplace deadlines.

National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Result Notices are posted to candidates late in January and made available online at the same time. Your Result Notice shows all the standards you entered (internal and external assessment) and those achieved and not achieved. In April/May you'll receive certificates for any NCEAs completed in the previous year.

When you leave school, you'll receive a School Results Summary (SRS), listing all the standards that you have attempted and the results listed by subject and level, including Not Achieved results.

You can also request a copy of your Record of Achievement (ROA) from NZQA or access it online. This differs from the SRS in what is shown and how it is grouped. The 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.

These documents detail your achievements in a way that should be readily understood by employers and tertiary education providers.

You can create a summary of your results via www.nzqa.govt.nz/login (using your National Student Number to log in). When looking at your own Record of Achievement, you can choose to view a selection of items. When you have made a selection, you can copy and paste the information into your CV document, or just print it out.

As well as showing all your qualifications, you should include any specialist national certificates you have gained, or even partially completed. You could also summarise the subject and skill areas you have covered during your school studies.

Will NCEA be useful if I go overseas?

The NCEAs are New Zealand's national school-leaver qualifications. They are readily accepted overseas, including universities.

New Zealand has qualification recognition agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) and our qualifications are accepted for most purposes in the United States. NCEA level 3 is broadly equivalent to the United Kingdom'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 Interstate Tertiary Index used for entrance to all Australian universities. If you give permission, NZQA will electronically send your results to Australian authorities 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 'Info for Students' area on the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea is a useful source of information including:

- the exam timetable
- past exam papers
- study tips etc.

NCEA	Talk to your school or contact NZQA: www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea 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.kiwiquals.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

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www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea

