

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

a. How Does NCEA Work?

NCEA recognises achievement in a wide range of studies. It means schools can offer a broader range of subjects and students can gain credits from standards developed by industry.

To gain an NCEA certificate students must earn credits, by meeting standards in their chosen subject areas. Some standards will be assessed by the external examinations, others will be assessed by internal assessment.

Achievement/Unit standards make clear to teachers, students and parents the standard of work, skills and knowledge necessary to achieve. Students earn credit by fulfilling the requirements of the standard. These standards encourage high expectations. Achievement standards have been designed so that satisfactory work, good work, and truly excellent achievement can be recognised with “Achieved”, “Merit” and “Excellence” grades.

Students will be told how well they have performed in each part of each subject with marks for both externally examined components and internally assessed work.

b. Requirements for Achieving NCEA

You will qualify for NCEA level 1 when you have achieved 60 credits at level 1 or above AND gained the literacy and numeracy corequisites.

- In 2024-25 there two ways to gain the 20 credit co-requisites:

Literacy	Numeracy
10 credits from EITHER: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAA Literacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Reading exam (5 credits) AND• Digital Writing exam (5 credits) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievement Standards – specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects especially English and Te Reo Māori (minimum of 10 credits)	10 credits from EITHER: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAA Numeracy<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Numeracy exam (10 credits) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievement Standards – specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects especially Mathematics (minimum of 10 credits)

*Please note if you gain literacy through the Achievement Standard pathway you **CANNOT** count these credits towards you're 80 credits as well*

NCEA Level 2 and 3

To attain NCEA Level 2, you need to achieve 60 credits at Level 2 or above, PLUS 10 literacy and 10 Numeracy credits.

To attain Level 3, you need to achieve 60 credits at Level 3 or above, PLUS 10 literacy and 10 Numeracy credits.

The NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy corequisite requirement **must** be met to achieve the NCEA Level 2 and Level 3 qualification. There will be examinations at the end of both years as well as internal assessment throughout the year.

Course Endorsements

Course endorsements can be gained by students who perform exceptionally well in individual courses (subjects). Students will be able to have their strengths recognised with a course endorsement at Achieved, Merit or Excellence. Students will gain an endorsement for a course where they achieve:

1. 14 or more credits at Achieved, Merit or Excellence at the lower levels that supports the endorsement.
2. at least 3 credits from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards.
3. sufficient credits in a single school year

Note: Physical Education and Visual Arts will be exempt from (2) above

Certificate Endorsements

You can gain a NCEA certificate endorsed with Excellence or Merit. To gain this endorsement you must gain 50 credits at Excellence or 50 Credits at Merit and Excellence.

Scholarship

Scholarship is externally assessed. It is designed to extend top-level students and to financially reward very able students who are going on to tertiary study. It is not a qualification.

University Entrance

Universities and other tertiary institutions set their own entry criteria for their courses. If you are intending heading in that direction you need to do some research before selecting courses for Years 12 and 13.

Students will need to do **ALL** of the following to be awarded UE:

- attain NCEA Level 3
- achieve 14 credits at level three in **each of three subjects from the list of approved subjects**. The list of approved subjects will consist of subjects derived from the *New Zealand Curriculum* with achievement standards at Level 3.
- achieve UE numeracy - 10 credits at Level 1 and above from specific achievement standards, or the level 1 Numeracy digital examination (US
- achieve UE literacy - 10 credits (five in reading and five in writing) at Level 2 and above from specific standards.