

NCEA – AN EXPLANATION

The National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) began in 2002 for students studying in Year 11. It allows us to offer subjects and courses that are appropriate for our students and relevant to pathways into work and tertiary study. Under NCEA, students are assessed through a combination of exams and internal assessment. Many of the Achievement Standards of the usual school subjects in Years 11, 12 and 13 are assessed by an examination.

To summarise the main points:

- Most subjects will offer Achievement Standards which are units of work assessed either at the end of the unit or in an examination at the end of the year.
- The result for each Achievement Standard can be Not Achieved, Achieved, Achieved with Merit or Achieved with Excellence.
- Each Achievement Standard has a number of credits. When a student is credited with an Achievement Standard it is added to their Record of Achievement held on a database at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. This Record of Achievement will hold the results obtained throughout the students' lifetime.
- When a student has gained sufficient credits at a level, they receive an NCEA certificate:

NCEA Level 1	=	80 credits at Level 1
NCEA Level 2	=	60 credits at Level 2 and 20 credits at Level 1
NCEA Level 3	=	60 credits at Level 3 and 20 credits at Level 2
- Endorsements;
 - The National Certificate in Educational Achievement can be endorsed. Students will require 50 credits at Excellence to gain an NCEA endorsed with Excellence, and 50 credits at Merit (or Merit and Excellence), to gain an NCEA endorsed with Merit.
 - Subject Endorsement - students will receive an Excellence endorsement if they gain 14 or more credits at Excellence level and a Merit endorsement if they gain 14 or more credits at Merit level in a school subject. At least three of the 14 credits must be from internally assessed standards and three from externally assessed standards. This demonstrates that students are competent in both forms of assessment.
- For an NCEA Level 1 Certificate, at least 10 credits must come from literacy (reading and writing in English / Te Reo) and 10 from numeracy (dealing with numbers).
- Some subjects will also offer Unit Standards. The credits from Unit Standards will also go towards NCEA. The result for each can be Not Achieved or Achievement.
- Credits from some subjects can be used for other certificates such as the National Certificate in Computing.
- Students studying at NCEA Level 3 have the opportunity to also sit scholarship exams. These exams enable students to be assessed against challenging standards and are designed for the most able students in each subject.

Most of the approved subjects are available for scholarship in 2012.