

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

The Qualifications Framework and the New Zealand Curriculum

The New Zealand Curriculum

The New Zealand Curriculum covers the seven essential learning areas and the skills which should be part of a broad, balanced school education. The learning areas are; Languages, Mathematics, Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology, Health and Physical Education, and Arts. Each learning area has eight levels, from Level 1 in Junior Primary classes to Level 8 at Senior Secondary level.

The Qualifications Framework

The National Qualifications Framework also has eight levels with Level 1 at Year 11 through to Level 8 in Post-graduate study at university. It has various qualifications for senior secondary level and beyond.

Level 1 is entry level for education and training, broadly equivalent to Year 11 studies. Level 2 is broadly equivalent to Year 12 studies and Levels 3 and 4 represent studies done at Year 13. The framework creates a 'seamless' education system that brings together secondary education, industry training and tertiary education beneath one umbrella.

What is a Standard?

Standards are the building blocks of the Qualifications Framework.

- Standards describe what a student needs to know, do and understand at a certain level. They do not dictate what is taught or how a school delivers its courses.
- Every standard achieved is listed on a person's Record of Achievement. Wherever students go and whatever they learn, they can keep adding to that Record of Achievement throughout their lives.
- Two types of standards are available; Unit Standards and Achievement Standards.

Record of Achievement

Once a student meets the required standard and the appropriate fee is paid, credit for the standard is added to his or her Record of Achievement. This is stored in a national database at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). When the student has achieved the eighty credits needed for a National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), the title of the qualification will appear on the Record of Achievement.

Costs for Students

The cost for NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 is \$76.70 per student per year, with a maximum of \$200 per family. Parents and caregivers can also apply for a rebate if they meet certain financial criteria (eg in receipt of a benefit or have a Community Services Card).

A Message to all Intending Students

Courses listed in this booklet will operate only if there is sufficient student demand and available staffing. Students are advised to read course entry guidelines before making their choices.

A Message to Adult Students

All subjects listed may be taken by adult students. All courses are made up of standards from the National Qualifications Framework. Courses which have been of interest to adult students in the past include; Accounting, Mathematics, English and Digital Technology. As well, some adult students have taken subjects at junior levels.

Careers information is always available here.

Structure at Senior School

Year 11 Science, English, Mathematics, Core Physical Education and Superstudies are all compulsory. Students also choose two other subjects.

In Science, English and Mathematics there are three classes (Unit Standards, Unit Standards / Achievement Standards, and Achievement Standards). These classes are designed to meet different students' academic abilities and teachers recommend which class best fits which student.

Year 12 English and Superstudies are compulsory. Students choose four other subjects.

Year 13 No subjects are compulsory; students take five subjects. They need to be taking the right subjects that will lead to the career option they desire.

Careers Education Programme

Career information and guidance aims to assist students to develop the skills, attitude and knowledge for sound decision making about school and post-school options.

In support of the career education programme, career guidance is offered on a one-to-one basis, usually by self-referral. Career counselling is targeted at students when required or identified. There is a strong network between the Careers Adviser, the Guidance Counsellor and the Form Teachers.

The Careers Adviser or Guidance Counsellor are always able to offer assistance. Appointments can be made for a careers interview at any stage during the year.

Parents, caregivers and people from the community are also very welcome to make an appointment for advice or assistance.

Robert Newport
Careers Adviser

Guidance Counsellor

Jenny Griffin