

# NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (NCEA) 2026 GENERAL INFORMATION

This is New Zealand's national qualification. Subjects are divided into a number of Achievement Standards.

## **NCEA is offered at three years:**

Year 11 – NCEA Level 1  
 Year 12 – NCEA Level 2  
 Year 13 – NCEA Level 3 and Level 4 Scholarship

Further details are available by visiting [www.ncea.govt.nz](http://www.ncea.govt.nz)

**From 2019 onwards, there is no charge for Domestic students sitting NCEA at any level.**

## **SUBJECTS TAKEN PER LEVEL**

<b>NCEA Levels</b>			
	<b>Year 11</b> NCEA LEVEL 1	<b>Year 12</b> NCEA LEVEL 2	<b>Year 13</b> NCEA LEVEL 3
<b>Compulsory Subjects</b>	<b>English Mathematics Science Theology &amp; Philosophy</b>	<b>English Mathematics Theology &amp; Philosophy</b>	<b>English Theology &amp; Philosophy</b>
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	THREE (3) other NCEA Level 1 subjects	THREE (3) other NCEA Level 2 subjects	FOUR (4) other NCEA Level 3 subjects

### **Notes:**

- Each subject is divided into a number of Standards worth varying number of credits.

## PASS Requirements

Year 11 NCEA LEVEL 1	Year 12 NCEA LEVEL 2	Year 13 NCEA LEVEL 3
<p>Passing Level 1 involves gaining a minimum of <b>60</b> credits</p> <p>Across the seven subjects in Year 11, SPC offers students the chance to obtain roughly 130 credits.</p>	<p>Passing Level 2 involves gaining <b>60</b> credits at Level 2</p> <p>Across the six subjects at Level 2, SPC offers students the chance to obtain roughly 120 credits.</p>	<p>Passing NCEA Level 3 involves gaining <b>60</b> credits at Level 3</p> <p>Across the six subjects in Level 3, SPC offers students the chance to obtain roughly 120 credits.</p>
<b>Co-requisite Requirements (Numeracy &amp; Literacy):</b> Passing NCEA involves gaining <b>10</b> credits for Numeracy and <b>10</b> credits for Literacy (separate assessment for 5 credits Reading & 5 credits Writing).		

NCEA LEVELS are a mix of **Internal Achievement Standards** which are taken during school time and **External Achievement Standards** which are taken in the exam season at the end of the academic year. **The object for every student should be to pass the standards at as high a level as possible, aiming for Merit and Excellence as their level of attainment.**

## ENDORSEMENTS

At each Level, students require **50 Excellence Credits** to gain an **NCEA endorsed with Excellence**, and **50 Merit** or **Excellence Credits** to gain an **NCEA endorsed with Merit or Excellence**.

## UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

You will be qualified for entrance to New Zealand Universities if you have obtained:

- A FULL PASS AT NCEA LEVEL 3**
- APPROVED SUBJECTS** – 14 credits in each of three approved subjects at Level 3.
- Co-requisite Requirements (Numeracy & Literacy)**

**NOTE: The University of Auckland have increased their own literacy requirements. To enter any university course at Auckland, students need to have 17 credits at NCEA English Level 2 or 3.**

Universities set specific requirements, please refer to the **Careers Pathway Guide** on the website (under Academic, Academic Guides) for requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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## FACULTIES & THEIR SUBJECT OPTIONS - NCEA LEVELS OVERVIEW -

ART FACULTY			
SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
ART: DIGITAL or PRACTICAL	Year 10 Art	NOT OFFERED	NOT OFFERED
DESIGN	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Art	14 Credits in Level 2 Design + External Portfolio
PAINTING/ ILLUSTRATION	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Art including external	14 Credits in Level 2 Design/ Painting + External Portfolio
PHOTOGRAPHY	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Art Including external	14 Credits in Level 2 Design/ Photography + External Portfolio
COMMERCE FACULTY			
SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
ACCOUNTING	Open Entry	10 Credits in Level 1 Accounting including externals	10 Credits in Level 2 Accounting including externals
BUSINESS STUDIES	NOT OFFERED	15 Credits in Level 1 Maths or English	14 Credits in Level 2 Business, Maths or English
ECONOMICS	Open Entry	10 Credits in Level 1 Economics, Maths or English	14 Credits in Level 2 Economics, Maths or English
ENGLISH FACULTY			
SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
ENGLISH	COMPULSORY	COMPULSORY	COMPULSORY
ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL	Placement Test	Placement Test	Intermediate English
MEDIA STUDIES	NOT OFFERED	15 Credits in Level 1 English	14 Credits in Level 2 English including external

## FACULTIES & THEIR SUBJECT OPTIONS - NCEA LEVELS OVERVIEW

### HUMANITIES FACULTY

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
GEOGRAPHY	Open Entry	15 Credits in Level 1 Geography or English	14 Credits in Level 2 Geography or English
HISTORY	Open Entry	15 Credits in Level 1 History or English	14 Credits in Level 2 History or English

### LANGUAGES FACULTY

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
CHINESE	Year 10 Chinese	10 Credits in Level 1 Chinese	9 Credits in Level 2 Chinese/ IGCSE D grade
SPANISH	Year 10 Spanish	10 Credits in Level 1 Spanish	9 Credits in Level 2 Spanish including 1 external standard
TE REO MĀORI	Year 10 Māori	10 credits in Level 1 Te Reo Māori, or interview with Matua/Whaea	12 credits Level 2 Te Reo Māori or an entry test

### MATHEMATICS FACULTY

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
MATHEMATICS	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	NOT OFFERED
CALCULUS	NOT OFFERED	<b>COMPULSORY:</b> MATHEMATICS WITH CALCULUS  <b>OR</b> MATHEMATICS WITH STATISTICS	16 Credits in Level 2 Mathematics with Calculus and a Merit grade in the Algebra external (91261)
STATISTICS	NOT OFFERED		12 credits in Level 2 Mathematics with Calculus or Level 2 Mathematics with Statistics

### MUSIC FACULTY

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
MUSIC	2-3 years of Music lessons on an instrument	3-4 years of Music lessons on an instrument. Ability to read Music.	14 Credits in Level 2 Music, an ability to read music and perform on an instrument equivalent to Grade 4

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) FACULTY**

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Open Entry	15 Credits in Level 1 PE	14 Credits in Level 2 PE including 2.2 or 2.5

**SCIENCE FACULTY**

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
SCIENCE	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	NOT OFFERED	NOT OFFERED
BIOLOGY	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Science (including 5 external credits in Biology standard)	14 Credits in Level 2 Biology including at least one external
CHEMISTRY	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Science (including 5 external credits in Chemistry standard)	14 Credits in Level 2 Chemistry
PHYSICS	NOT OFFERED	10 Credits in Level 1 Science (including 5 external credits in Physics standards)	14 Credits in Level 2 Physics including 2 external standards and Level 2 Maths externals 91261 or 91262

**TECHNOLOGY FACULTY**

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
DVC	Year 10 DVC	15 Credits in Level 1 DVC	16 Credits in Level 2 DVC
HARD MATERIALS	<b>FURNITURE:</b> Year 10 Hard Materials Technology	<b>CARPENTRY:</b> 20 Credits in Level 1 Furniture	<b>TRADES:</b> 20 Credits in Level 2 Carpentry

**THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY FACULTY**

SUBJECT	LEVEL 1 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 2 Entry Requirements	LEVEL 3 Entry Requirements
Theology & Philosophy	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>COMPULSORY</b>

**NOTE: Entry into some subjects without prerequisites is still possible with Head of Faculty approval**

**For specific course costs, see Subject Guides.**