

GLENFIELD  
COLLEGE



# NCEA 2021

the main qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA



# What is NCEA?

- **National qualifications** that replaced School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate and Bursary in 2002.
- **Standards based** qualifications that measure performance against pre-set standards.
- **National Qualifications Framework (NQF)** is available at Level 1 (Year 11), Level 2 (Year 12), Level 3 (Year 13).
- **NCEA** is for all students whatever their pathway: university, tertiary study, apprenticeship or learning practical skills for a job after leaving school.



## How is NCEA assessed?

- Courses are assessed in separate parts called **standards**. Standards are a summary of the **knowledge, understanding and skills that students must demonstrate**.
- **Internal assessments** are carried out throughout the year and are assessed by teachers.
- **External assessments** are carried out through national examinations or by a portfolio submission at the end of the year.
- **Achievement Standards** can be assessed by internal and external assessment based on the New Zealand Curriculum.
- **Unit Standards** are assessed internally and usually assess vocationally based skills and knowledge.
- **Each standard is worth credits** usually between 3 and 6. Credits are gathered to achieve a **qualification at NCEA Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3**.



# How to gain NCEA?

- For Level 1 (Year 11) completion - **80 credits** including:
  - **10 Literacy credits** (reading and writing) in English or Te Reo Maori
  - **10 Numeracy credits**
- For Level 2 (Year 12) completion - **80 credits** including:
  - **60 credits** at Level 2
- For Level 3 (Year 13) completion – **80 credits** including:
  - **60 credits** at Level 3 and up to **20 credits** from Level 2
- Note that these totals are the minimum number of credits required to complete each level.



# How do standards combine in a course?

- Courses may combine **internally assessed standards** (done at school) and **externally assessed standards** (examined at the end of year NZQA exams).
- Courses may combine **Unit Standards** or **Achievement Standards**.
- Each course will typically offer a total of **18 to 24**.



# Unit Standards and Achievement Standards

- **Unit Standards** are all internally assessed and usually have only two possible levels of achievement:
  - **Achieved** (Pass); or
  - **Not Achieved** (Fail)
  - These are being removed by NZQA but will stay in industry based programmes:
- **Achievement Standards** can be internally or externally assessed and have four possible levels of achievement:
  - **Excellence** ↑ (Two steps above Achieved)
  - **Merit** ↑ (One step above Achieved)
  - **Achieved** ↑
  - **Not Achieved**



# What are NCEA Endorsements?

- These reward students who achieve with **Merit** and **Excellence**.
- **Certificate Endorsement**
  - Endorsement with **Merit requires 50 credits** at Merit or Excellence at the same level or higher in a Level.
  - Endorsement with **Excellence requires 50 credits** at Excellence at the same level or higher in a Level.
- **Course Endorsement**
  - Individual course endorsements are awarded to students that get 14 credits or more at Merit or Excellence level for a single course in a single year.





# University Entrance

- **Level 1 (Numeracy):** 10 Level 1 (or above) Maths credits  
*plus*
- **Level 2 (Literacy):** 5 Level 2 or Level 3 Reading credits  
5 Level 2 or Level 3 Writing credits  
*plus*
- **Level 3:** 14 Level 3 credits in three approved courses (minimum of 42 credits) and must have gained the NCEA Level 3 qualification ie 60 credits.
- It should be noted that UE is the minimum requirement for entry to degree programmes. Most university courses require a higher standard for entry.
- Eg. Auckland University's entry requirements:
  - UE plus 17 NCEA Level 2 or 3 English credits





# What are 'approved' courses for UE

- **Approved Courses:**

Biology	Business Studies	Calculus
Chemistry	Dance	Design & Visual Communication
Drama	English	Geography
Health	History	Music
Art (Painting)	Physical Education	Physics
Statistics	Te Reo Maori	

- Note: Maths is **not compulsory** in Level 2 or Level 3  
English is **highly recommended** in Level 2  
English is **not compulsory** in Level 3  
**BUT Numeracy and Literacy credits are essential for UE**



# Rank Scores

- To gain entry to courses at Auckland University they calculate Rank Scores eg:
  - Bachelor of Arts requires 150 points
  - Bachelor of Science (Bio Med) requires 280 points
- To calculate an NCEA rank score:
  - Based on the student's best 80 credits in UE achieved over a maximum of 5 courses.
  - Approved courses at Level 3 (or higher), and weighted by the level of achievement.
- The scores awarded are:
  - 4 points for Excellence
  - 3 points for Merit
  - 2 points for Achieved
- The maximum possible score is 320.
- A maximum of 24 credits in each courses may be counted.



# New Zealand Scholarship

- Prestigious awards for the most able and designed to satisfy their intellectual needs – a special feature of New Zealand education for NCEA candidates.
- Financial awards (ranging from \$500 per single course payment to \$10,000 each year for three years for Premier Scholars).
- Taken as additional examinations alongside NCEA or in November.
- Preparation and enrichment in Scholarship tutorial groups throughout the year.



# How can you track your child's NCEA performance?

- Fortnightly Reports.
- Results sheet sent out each month starting at the end of Term 1.
- Kamar Parental Portal – online updates.
- Examination Report sent out last week of Term 3
- Student NZQA log-on with updates from April onwards.
- Result notice from NZQA in January.



# Supporting NCEA Outcomes

- Please visit the Glenfield College website <https://www.glenfieldcollege.school.nz/> to download the full electronic copy of the:

## **Student and Parent Assessment Procedures Manual**

for information on:

- Extensions
- Further assessments
- Appeals
- Withdrawals
- Special assessment conditions
- Derived grades



## Other things to consider.

- **Student responsibility for learning** is critical for NCEA success.
- **Pathways and targets** should be identified and followed (course entry to the next Level or access to employment).
- **Individual strengths and preferences** need consideration (eg. External vs. Internal standards, collecting Unit Standards or Achievement Standards; Vocational vs. Academic; Scholarship preparation).
- **Numeracy and Literacy** proficiency is essential.
- **Quality over quantity** (eg. University of Auckland rank score points).
- **Resubmissions** only occur for students to go from Not Achieved to Achieved (new for 2021)
- **Reassessments** are available for some standards – if available teachers will be in contact with students and parents



# NZQA Fees

- **NZQA Fees for New Zealand Citizens and Residents**  
The NZQA administration fee was removed in 2019
- **International Students**  
Pay NCEA and Scholarship fees
  - Entry for all NQF standards      \$383.30 per candidate
  - All Scholarship entries      \$102.20 per course





## Further NCEA Information

- NZQA has not yet released their information booklets for 2021 due to the review that has been taking place. The review outcomes will not effect NCEA this year.
- Please visit the Glenfield College website:  
<https://www.glenfieldcollege.school.nz/>
- Please visit the NZQA website:  
<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>
- There is also a free Phone App that is a useful quick reference:



- Thank you for coming. We will be available if you have any questions.