

Entry to New Zealand Universities with NCEA

The Common Entrance Standard is the minimum standard which must be met for admission to New Zealand universities and other undergraduate degree programmes in New Zealand. It is laid down by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Students must meet three requirements:

- **General subject standard:** An NCEA Level 3 Certificate: 60 credits at Level 3 or higher and 20 credits at Level 2 or higher. A minimum of 14 credits at Level 3 in each of **three** subjects from the list of *approved subjects*.
- **Literacy standard:** A minimum of 10 credits at Level 2 or higher in English or other approved literacy Achievement Standards. Five credits must be in Reading and five credits must be in Writing.
- **Numeracy standard:** A minimum of 10 credits at Level 1 or higher in Mathematics or other specified Achievement Standards or three specific Numeracy Unit Standards.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This table represents the minimum standards required for university entrance. Many courses and universities will require a higher standard and/or particular subjects.

NCEA National Certificate of Educational Achievement.

General NCEA Level 3 Certificate	Approved Subject 1 (14 credits)	Approved Subject 2 (14 credits)	Approved Subject 3 (14 credits)	At least 38 further credits (18 credits at Level 3 or above and 20 credits Level 2 or above)
	<u>Literacy</u> Level 2 (or above) 10 credits	Reading (5 Credits)	Writing (5 Credits)	
	<u>Numeracy</u> Level 1 (or above) 10 credits	Mathematics/Numeracy (10 credits)		

NOTE: Students are strongly advised to achieve a total of at least 17 credits in NCEA Level 2 or Level 3 English. This is the AELR (Academic English Language Requirement) for entry to all degrees at the University of Auckland.

NCEA Ranking Calculations for Limited Entry Degree Courses:

Most universities in New Zealand require "Guaranteed" or "Preferential" entry scores which are higher than the minimum required for University Entrance. For NCEA candidates the NCEA rank score is used.

It calculated using the best 80 credits at Level 3 achieved over a maximum of five approved subjects.

The scores awarded are: four points for Excellence, three points for Merit and two for Achieved for up to 24 credits in each approved subject. The maximum possible score is 320. Students intending to apply for University are strongly advised to study approved subjects and to include mostly Achievement Standards rather than Unit Standards.

Examples:

Results		A	M	E
Mathematics Calculus	19	3	4	12
Mathematics Statistics	17	4	4	9
Physics	21	6	12	3
Geography	24		9	15
Chemistry	25	17	8	
Level 3 Credits TOTAL:	106	30	37	39

Results		A	M	E
ESOL (Level 2)	16	16		
Mathematics Calculus	19	3	4	12
Economics	24	6	13	5
Geography	11	11		
Accounting	18		13	5
Level 3 Credits TOTAL:	72	20	30	22

BEST 80 CREDITS (Approved Subjects):

Excellence	39 x 4 = 156
Merit	37 x 3 = 111
Achieved	4 x 2 = 8
TOTAL	80 275

BEST 80 LEVEL 3 CREDITS (Approved Subjects):

Excellence	22 x 4 = 88
Merit	30 x 3 = 90
Achieved	20 x 2 = 40
TOTAL	72 218

NCEA Certificates:

NCEA Level 1 is awarded to students who have achieved 80 credits at Level 1 or above including 10 credits in *Literacy* and 10 credits in *Numeracy*. NCEA Certificates may be built up over a number of years.

NCEA Level 2 requires achievement of 80 credits: up to 20 from Level 1 and at least 60 from Level 2 or above.

NCEA Level 3 involves achieving 80 credits: up to 20 from Level 2 and at least 60 from Level 3.

Students must have achieved at least NCEA Level 1 *Literacy* and *Numeracy* to be awarded Level 2 or 3 Certificates.

High achieving students are recognised with endorsed certificates. Students require 50 Excellence credits at the appropriate level to gain an **NCEA endorsed with Excellence**, and 50 Merit or Excellence credits at the level to gain an **NCEA endorsed with Merit**. Gaining an NCEA Level 2 endorsed with Excellence in Year 12 will assist students to be considered for tertiary scholarships.

N.B. For entry into tertiary courses at Universities, Polytechnics and Private Providers the quality of credits achieved and the subjects they are in is more important than simply achieving a large number of credits.