



NELSON COLLEGE
TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ



NCEA 2026



Warning:

This information is relevant for current Year 10 – Year 13 students

The National Government has proposed new national qualifications that, if actioned, will come into effect in 2028. This will impact current Year 9 students.

- Removal of Level 1, other than a foundation award in numeracy and literacy
- Replacing Levels 2 and 3 with two new qualifications
- Requiring students to take five subjects and pass at least four to attain each certificate
- New vocational pathways



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National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

NCEA is for everyone, whether a student wants to do an apprenticeship, go to university, or be ready to get a job when they leave school.

Learning from both the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (the Māori-medium curriculum) contributes to NCEA and the University Entrance award.

What Level?

Levels

NCEA Level 1 provides a solid foundation of skills and knowledge that students can build on.

NCEA Level 2 is the minimum qualification students will need for some jobs and tertiary programmes.

NCEA Level 3, along with the University Entrance (UE) award, is what students will need to enter most university and tertiary programmes.



What Level?

Levels

Most Year 11 students start at Level 1 of NCEA, and progress to Level 2 in Year 12 and Level 3 in Year 13.

It's not unusual for Yr 12 or 13 students to study at a mix of different levels, depending on their learning programme.

Students can start working towards NCEA Level 2 before they gain NCEA Level 1.



How do you pass NCEA?

NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 are all 80 credit qualifications

- 60 credits at the relevant level or above,
and
- 10 literacy credits, and
- 10 numeracy credits.



Literacy and Numeracy



From 2024 to 2027...

- Achieving the new Literacy and Numeracy corequisite standards.

Or

- Gaining 20 credits from a small list of literacy and numeracy-rich standards

Literacy and Numeracy

From 2028 ... there will be only one...

- Achieving the Literacy and Numeracy corequisite standards.



Literacy and Numeracy

Many Nelson College students sat the online Literacy/Numeracy assessments in Year 10.

There will be two more opportunities in Yr 11, 12 and 13.



Internal and External Assessments

All the work completed for NCEA will be assessed by either **internal** or **external** assessments.

Internal assessments are when the work is assessed throughout the year by classroom teachers

External assessments are when the work is assessed by NZQA. This includes the end-of-year examinations, CAAs and portfolio work.



Unit
Standards
and
Achievement
Standards



There are two types of standards students can be assessed on: **unit standards** and **achievement standards**.

Unit standards are only assessed internally, and usually assess a skill.

You can usually only gain Achieved or Not Achieved in Unit standards

Unit
Standards
and
Achievement
Standards



There are two types of standards students can be assessed on: **unit standards** and **achievement standards**.

Achievement standards can be assessed internally or externally.

You can gain a Not Achieved, Achieved, Merit or Excellence in Achievement standards

Unit
Standards
and
Achievement
Standards



The grade will show how well they did in completing the standard.

Not achieved (N) for not meeting the criteria of the standard

Achieved (A) for meeting the criteria of the standard

Merit (M) for meeting the criteria of the standard to a very good level

Excellence (E) for meeting the criteria of the standard to an outstanding level.

Unit
Standards
and
Achievement
Standards



In 2024, Level 1 changed

- Most Achievement Standards are worth 5 credits
- Most Subjects have only 4 Achievement Standards

At Nelson College we have decided that students will be entered for 3 Achievement Standards per subject, this means students will at most achieve 15 credits in each subject (90 credits overall).

Science

Course is endorsable

Year : 11

Course : Science

Mrs S Cahill

Total Credits : 16

This is a general science course for those wishing to continue in science or not, which includes aspects of Biology, Chemistry, Physics while covering a broad range of scientific skills and knowledge required to develop scientific literacy.

A maximum of five standards will be selected from those shown below.

Teacher in charge: J Fraser

Pre Requisites

Students will be selected on their Year 10 results and teacher recommendation.

No	Number	Version	Level	Credits	Lit / Num	Full Title	Assessment Details	Grade	Teacher Signature
1	92021	4	1	6		Chemistry and Biology 1.2 - Demonstrate understanding of chemical reactions in context	Written Test, 1 Opportunity, Topic Start: 23/03/2026, Assessing from 18/05/2026 to 22/05/2026		
2	92020	3	1	5		Chemistry and Biology 1.1 - Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between a microorganism and the environment	Written Test, 1 Opportunity, Topic Start: 2/02/2026, Assessing from 16/03/2026 to 20/03/2026		
3	92047	3	1	5	Num	Physics, Earth and Space Science 1.4 - Demonstrate understanding of a physical system using energy concepts	External: Paper Exam		

Endorsement

Students can gain an endorsement at **Course** level or at **Certificate** level

Course endorsement shows high achievement in a particular course.

Certificate endorsement shows high achievement in the qualification (such as Level 1).



Course Endorsement



When students gain **14 or more credits at Merit** (or a mix of Merit and Excellence) in a course in a *single year*, they will be awarded a **Merit endorsement** for that course.

When students gain **14 or more credits at Excellence** in a course in a *single year*, they will be awarded an **Excellence endorsement** for that course.

To be awarded an endorsement, in most courses they need a minimum of **three credits from internal assessment** and a **minimum of three from external assessment**.

Certificate Endorsement

If a student gains 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence at the level of the certificate or above, their NCEA certificate will be endorsed with Merit.

When a student gains 50 or more credits at Excellence at the level of the certificate or above, their NCEA certificate will be endorsed with Excellence.

Credits for an endorsed NCEA certificate (Levels 1, 2 and 3) can be gained over more than one year.

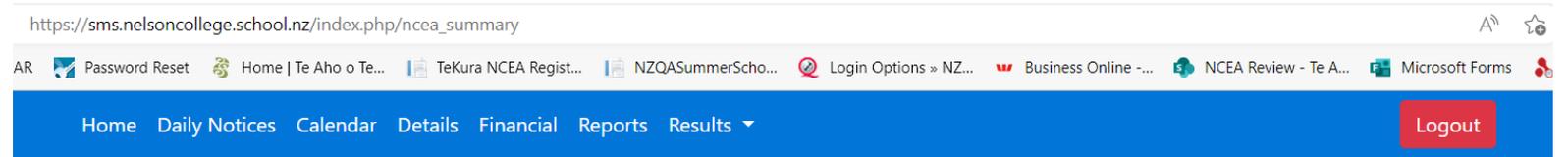


Keeping track of credits



First option:

- Use the school portal (parents or students):



NCEA Summary

NZQA Qualifications

* There are no official results from NZQA available yet.

NCEA Credit Summary

Standard Level	NA	A	M	E	Total Credits	Total Attempted	NCEA Qualification	University Entrance Literacy
5	0	0	0	0	0	0		No [0/0/0] ?
4	0	0	0	0	0	0		
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	No ?	Level 1 Literacy No [0/0 credits] ?
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	No ?	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	No ?	Numeracy No [0/0 credits] ?

Year Sat	NA	A	M	E	Total Credits	Total Attempted
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0

Credits For All Years

Keeping track
of credits



Second option:

- Use the NZQA
webpage (just
students).

Only credits
appearing on the
NZQA website count
– so always check
here for accuracy.



View your NCEA results and progress

Submit digital files, request your Record of Achievement
and more in MyNZQA.

New user? You'll need your NSN to create an account.

[Learner log in](#)

[Create or activate account](#) →

Useful contacts:

Samme Hippolite – Yr 11 Dean

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Sandra Carhill – Student Office Manager

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Vikki Heays – Careers advisor

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Leonor White – Deputy Principal

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