NCEA MYTHBUSTER #1

The number of credits assessed

Facts

• Students need a total of 80 credits for each NCEA qualification.

• Assessment programmes can be personalised to meet individual student needs. Some students may undertake less assessment, whilst others undertake more.

• The National Curriculum details what may be taught, but not everything needs to be assessed. Too much assessment can get in the way of learning.

• The school decides on the overall number of credits assessed in a year, by a student or group of students.

• The teaching programme should allow students to be assessed when they are ready.

Myths

• ‘All students within a course must be assessed against the same standards.’

• ‘All students should be assessed against every standard offered in a course.’

• ‘A course must contain no more than 24 credits and no less than 18 credits.’

Some other things to think about

• A teaching programme should meet the requirements of the *New Zealand Curriculum* or *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*.

• An assessment programme should give students the opportunity to demonstrate their learning.

• Factors that might determine the amount of assessment undertaken include:
  – your school’s assessment policy
  – the way in which evidence of achievement can be gathered
  – the number of credits needed to gain a qualification, course endorsement, University Entrance, or other tertiary entrance requirements
  – the number and type of credits required for Vocational Pathways.
More information

NCEA levels and certificates