

## National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Level 3)

<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Credits</b>	<b>80</b>

### Purpose

This is one of three National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEAs) designed to recognise the general achievement of 16 to 19 year old learners.

The NCEA (Level 3) is designed to:

- acknowledge achievement across a range of learning fields, particularly those identified in the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, and to attest to minimum levels of literacy and numeracy;
- motivate learners to achieve to their potential and help them market their achievements;
- attest to the ability to participate in, and benefit from, further study and training thereby promoting lifelong learning; and
- assist institutions to guide students and monitor achievement.

It also provides data to assist government and providers to monitor progress in relation to qualification-related education policies.

NCEA (Level 3) is designed to enable access to the skills required for employment. People certificated at Level 3 have typically shown themselves able to integrate knowledge and skills to solve unfamiliar problems; access, analyse and use available sources of information; and work independently in undirected activity. The qualification also provides a more advanced foundation for further study and knowledge and skills acquisition.

NCEA (Level 3) may lead to other specialised qualifications at higher levels.

A range of standards-based qualifications exists on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework to certify achievement in specialist areas, and credit towards those qualifications may also be used to meet NCEA requirements. Credit gained towards specified other qualifications (that are not based on assessment standards) may also be used to meet the requirements of the NCEAs, provided they have been quality assured and appear on the NZQA Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion.

NCEAs at Levels 1, 2, and 3 are government initiatives that replaced School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate, Higher School Certificate, and University Entrance, Bursaries and Scholarship examinations. They were introduced from 2002.

### Special Notes

- 1 This version of the qualification includes requirements for literacy and numeracy credits.
- 2 Both achievement standards and unit standards can contribute credit toward NCEA.

### 3 Credit Inclusion

The National Certificates of Educational Achievement have provision for recognition of credits from other qualifications that are on the approved list of qualifications recognised for credit inclusion. Details of the qualifications on the list are outlined in the *NZQA Rules and Procedures*, available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/secondary-school-rules/7/3/>.

Credits from courses on the Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion are not awarded with grades and cannot count towards the award of the NCEA with endorsement.

### 4 Credit Exclusion

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement will not count credits twice for the same learning outcome. Where two registered standards assess substantially the same learning outcome they are considered mutually exclusive for this qualification. Details of mutually exclusive standards are provided in the *NZQA Rules and Procedures* publications available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/standards/standards-exclusion-list>.

## Credit Range

	Total	Literacy Requirement	Numeracy Requirement	Elective
Level 1 credits	0-20	0-10	0-10	0
Level 2 credits	0-20	0-10	0-10	0-20
Level 3 or above credits	60-80	0-10	0-10	40-70
Minimum totals	80	10-20		60-70

## Requirements for Award of Qualification

### Award of NZQF National Qualifications

Credit gained for a standard may be used only once to meet the requirements of this qualification.

Unit standards and achievement standards that are equivalent in outcome are mutually exclusive for the purpose of award. The table of mutually exclusive standards is provided on the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) website: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/standards/standards-exclusion-list/>.

Reviewed standards that continue to recognise the same overall outcome are registered as new versions and retain their identification number (ID). Any version of a standard with the same ID may be used to meet qualification requirements that list the ID and/or that specify the past or current classification of the standard.

NCEA (Level 3) will be awarded to people who have met the literacy and numeracy requirements and who are credited with a minimum of 80 credits at Level 2 or above, of which a minimum of 60 credits is at Level 3 or above, from achievement standards and/or unit standards.

NCEA (Level 3) *with merit* will be awarded to people who meet the above requirements and who achieve a minimum of 50 credits with merit, or merit and excellence, from achievement standards at Level 3.

NCEA (Level 3) *with excellence* will be awarded to people who meet the above requirements and who achieve a minimum of 50 credits with excellence from achievement standards at Level 3.

**NB The award of a Level 3 NCEA qualification is not equivalent to the award of University Entrance. The requirements for university entrance are available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/university-entrance/>.**

## Summary of Requirements

A minimum of 80 credits at Level 2 or above of which a minimum of 60 credits at Level 3 or above

- Literacy and Numeracy requirement
  - Candidates must meet Method 1 or 2
    - Method 1
      - Candidates must have been awarded NCEA Level 1
    - Method 2
      - Literacy Requirement – a minimum of 10 credits as specified
      - Numeracy Requirement – a minimum of 10 credits as specified
- Elective – a minimum of 60 credits as specified

Please note that while credits from Level 1 standards can be used to meet the literacy and numeracy requirements they cannot contribute to the minimum of 80 credits needed for NCEA Level 3.

## Detailed Requirements

### Literacy Requirement

Candidates must meet Method 1 or 2

- Method 1
  - Candidates must have been awarded NCEA Level 1
- Method 2
  - A minimum of 10 credits from one of the following sets
    - Literacy Requirement Method A
    - Literacy Requirement Method B

### Literacy Requirement Method A

Core Generic > Core Generic > Work and Study Skills

ID	Title	Level	Credit
26622	Write to communicate ideas for a purpose and audience	1	4
26624	Read texts with understanding	1	3
26625	Actively participate in spoken interactions	1	3

## Literacy Requirement Method B

From the Literacy standards – see <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/literacy-and-numeracy/level-1-requirements/lit-num-subjects/>

## Numeracy Requirement

Candidates must meet Method 1 or 2

- Method 1
  - Candidates must have been awarded NCEA Level 1
- Method 2
  - A minimum of 10 credits from one of the following sets
    - Numeracy Requirement Method A
    - Numeracy Requirement Method B

## Numeracy Requirement Method A

Core Generic > Core Generic > Work and Study Skills

ID	Title	Level	Credit
26623	Use number to solve problems	1	4
26626	Interpret statistical information for a purpose	1	3
26627	Use measurement to solve problems	1	3

## Numeracy Requirement Method B

From the Numeracy standards – see <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/literacy-and-numeracy/level-1-requirements/lit-num-subjects/>

## Elective

A minimum of 60 credits at Level 2 or above from anywhere on the DAS

## Transition Arrangements

Version 5 was **republished** to remove the list of standards that meet the Literacy and Numeracy requirements and replace it in the qualification document with a reference to the list which is published on the NZQA website (<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/literacy-and-numeracy/level-1-requirements/lit-num-subjects/>). The planned review date was also changed from 2016 to 2018.

Version 5 was issued to include requirements for literacy and numeracy credits.

## Previous versions of the qualification

Version 4 was issued to include provisions for the award of the qualification with Merit and Excellence.

Version 3 was issued to amend the credit inclusion section of the purpose statement.

Version 2 was issued to update the purpose statement.

## NZQF National Qualification Registration Information

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	August 2003	December 2014
Revision	2	November 2005	December 2014
Revision	3	November 2006	December 2014
Revision	4	January 2008	December 2014
Revision	5	May 2014	N/A
Republished	5	October 2015	N/A

### Standard Setting Body

Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
WELLINGTON

Telephone 04 463 8000

### Planned Review

Any person or organisation may contribute to the review of this qualification by sending feedback to the standard setting body at the above address.

Next Review	2018
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### Other standard setting bodies whose standards are included in the qualification

NZQA

### Certification

The certificate will display only the NCEA logo, the Ministry of Education logo, and the NZQA logo.

## Classification

This qualification is classified according to the NQF classification system and the New Zealand Standard Classification of Education (NZSCED) system as specified below.

DAS Classification		NZSCED	
Code	Description	Code	Description
	Multi-Field	120101	Mixed Field Programmes > General Education Programmes > General Primary and Secondary Education

### Quality Management Systems

Providers and Industry Training Organisations must be granted consent to assess by a recognised Quality Assurance Body before they can register credits from assessment against standards. Organisation with consent to assess and Industry Training Organisations assessing against standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards. Consent to assess requirements and the moderation system are outlined in the associated Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) for each standard.