

Field **Multi-field**

Revision of NCEA Level 2 qualification

National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Level 2) [Ref: 0973]

The Ministry of Education has revised the qualification above.

Date new version published

November 2012

The next qualification review is planned to take place during 2016.

Reason for the revision

The main driver for revising the qualification is the introduction of literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA Level 2 with effect from 2013.

Literacy and numeracy credits will become a requirement for NCEA Level 3 from 2014.

Literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are essential for all learning. As students progress through the curriculum at secondary levels, the literacy and language, and mathematical and statistical demands on student learning become increasingly complex, abstract and specialised within each subject.

Literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are vital to ensure students are well equipped to access curriculum content and achieve in all learning areas, gain worthwhile qualifications, and ultimately succeed in the 21st century economy and society. The *New Zealand Curriculum* affirms the importance of literacy and numeracy.

There has been a literacy and numeracy requirement for NCEA Level 1 from its introduction in 2002.

The literacy and numeracy requirements may be met using one of two methods – either through the achievement of 10 credits from specific literacy standards and 10 credits from specific numeracy standards, or through the achievement of selected standards that demonstrate the required literacy and numeracy skills. The literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA Level 2 are the same as those for NCEA Level 1.

Main changes resulting from the revision

Introduction of literacy and numeracy requirements (see below) and some updating of purpose statement and special notes.

Changes to structure and content

Literacy requirement

Minimum of 10 credits through either:

- Achievement and unit standards - [Specified achievement standards](#) available through a range of subjects (minimum total of 10 credits), or
- Unit standards - package of three [literacy unit standards](#) (total of 10 credits - **all** three required).

Numeracy requirement

Minimum of 10 credits through either:

- Achievement standards - [Specified achievement standards](#) available through a range of subjects - (minimum total of 10 credits), or
- Unit standards - package of three [numeracy unit standards](#) (total of 10 credits - **all** three required).

Transition

No transition arrangements are needed for schools as it is expected that this change will have a minimal impact on them; the majority of students will continue to gain the literacy and numeracy requirement for NCEA from Level 1 standards while studying for their Level 1 NCEA. The remainder of students are very likely to gain the literacy and numeracy requirement through their normal studies towards NCEA Level 2 and Level 3.

The last date for providers to meet the requirements of versions 1-4 is 31 December 2012, while the last date to meet the requirements of version 5 (without Literacy and Numeracy requirements) is 31 December 2013. This is to allow tertiary providers to phase in the Literacy and Numeracy requirements.

It is not intended that anyone be disadvantaged by this revision. However, anyone who feels they have been disadvantaged may appeal to the Ministry of Education at the address below.

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