

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt



NCEA and all that
An information Session
for Students and Parents

There are several new terms you need to become familiar with:

The New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)

All standards are registered on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework. This includes Achievement Standards and Unit Standards.

These standards can be used by schools, tertiary institutes, private providers and industry once the provider has met the Quality Management Systems set out by the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA).

National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

When a student gains sufficient credits they receive a National Certificate of Educational Achievement. This can be gained over several years.

Record of Achievement (RoA)

Each student has an individual record of all their achievements. This builds up over the years and can be accessed by the student through the NZQA website.

National Qualification Framework

- Instead of performance in a course being assessed just an examination it is now assessed using several Standards.
- All courses at Sacred Heart College offer **standards** registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- Each standard is worth a number of **credits** (2 to 12 credits)
- Courses at this school offer between **16 and 24 credits**.
- These standards can be used to gain National Certificates in Educational Achievement (**NCEA**)
- The standards can also lead to **other certificates** such as the Certificate in Computing (Levels 1, 2 and 3)

Unit Standards and Achievement Standards

Unit Standards

- Unit Standards are generally used to assess skills.
- The things being assessed in a standard are all at about the same level of difficulty.
- It is a bit like taking a driving test, either you pass or fail.
- You may be allowed to fix up minor mistakes to pass the standard.
- If you do not pass you will be given another chance to do a second assessment task.

Achievement Standards

- These are grade Achieved, Merit, Excellence.
- Some Achievement Standards are externally assessed in an Examination at the end of the year.
- Other Achievement Standards are internally assessed by teachers during the year.
- In subjects such as mathematics the questions in an assessment vary in difficulty to reflect Achieved through to Excellence requirements.
- In other subjects the response a student makes to a question could be graded Achieved, Merit or Excellence.

Steps to Achieving Excellence in Science

Students are taught useful phrase
to help them respond to questions

Achieved	Merit	Excellence
<p><u>Describe</u> using: it is like ... initially ... secondly ... following this ... before ... and then ... for example ... (or a labelled diagram)</p>	<p><u>Explain</u> using: and so... because... as well as... due to... as a result... since... therefore... the effect of... consequently ...</p>	<p><u>Discuss & analyse</u> using: in contrast to ... however... both...and... compared to ... alternatively ... if...then... the evidence suggests... similarly...</p>

National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA)

NCEA Level 1

- A minimum of **80 credits** are required.
- These credits can come from **Unit Standards** and/or **Achievement Standards**.
- The 80 credits must include **10 credits in Literacy** and **10 credits in Numeracy**.

Level One Numeracy and Literacy

Literacy

Unit Standards – a package of three literacy unit standards
(total 10 credits – all three required)

Achievement Standards – Specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects

Numeracy

Unit Standards – a package of three numeracy unit standards
(total 10 credits – all three required)

Achievement Standards – Specified achievement standards available through a range of subjects.

The Literacy & Numeracy Achievement Standards are listed on the NZQA website.

Reporting

The results notice will clearly state whether the literacy requirement and the numeracy requirement has been met through the Achievement Standards or the Unit Standards package. This is because the Unit Standards packages are not at the same curriculum level as the Achievement Standards. At Sacred Heart College our goal will be for all students to achieve Literacy or Numeracy through Achievement Standards by the end of Year 12.

NCEA Level 2

- A minimum of **80 credits** are required.
- At least **60** of these credits must be at **level 2**.
- There are **no English or Mathematics requirements**.
- Credits can be re-used for different qualifications.
- A student who has achieved NCEA Level 1 can use 20 of the same credits towards NCEA Level 2.
- In reality Year 12 students only need to get 60 credits at Level 2 during the year to get NCEA Level 2.
- Students coming from overseas would need to get the full 80 credits.

NCEA Level 3

- A minimum of **80 credits** are required
- At least **60** of the credits must be at **level 3**.
- The other 20 credits can come from Level 2 or higher.
- There are **no English or Mathematics requirements**.

Endorsed NCEA Certificates

These endorsed certificates show an over all level of achievement that is easily recognised by tertiary institutes and employers.

These can be achieved over more than one year.

A NCEA Level 2 Certificate endorsed with Excellence from Year 12 is often used as a pre-requisite when applying for University academic scholarships in Year 13.

NCEA Level 1 Endorsed with Merit

50 Merit or Excellence credits at Level 1 or higher

NCEA Level 1 Endorsed with Excellence

50 Excellence credits at Level 1 or higher

NCEA Level 2 Endorsed with Merit

50 Merit or Excellence credits at Level 2 or higher

NCEA Level 2 Endorsed with Excellence

50 Excellence credits at Level 2 or higher

The same pattern occurs at Level 3.

Course Endorsements

These will be introduced in 2011.

Course endorsements must be achieved must be achieved in one year.

Course Endorsement with Merit

14 credits at Merit level or above
including 3 credits from internal standards
and 3 credits form external standards

Course Endorsement with Excellence

14 credits at Excellence level
including 3 credits from internal standards
and 3 credits form external standards

Each **course** will be defined by the school offering it
i.e. the 18 to 24 credits attached to a specific course

University Entrance

- A minimum of **42 credits** are required at Level 3.
- These must consist of at least **14 credits in each of two “approved subjects”** (subjects such as French or history)
- And another **14 credits that can come from any two other domains or “approved subjects”**
- Some subjects use **standards from several domains**. Students taking Sustainable Futures and/or Information Technology have been advised to be very careful when checking how close to gaining University Entrance they are at any stage.

Additional Requirements for University Entrance

- **8 credits in Level 2 English** (or Te Reo Maori)
4 credits from the reading standards and 4 credits from the writing standards.
- **14 credits in Mathematics** from any level.
- This requirement applies to all students including International Students

Changes for University Entrance Requirements for 2011

NZ Universities are applying different requirements for entry in 2011. Just getting 3 X 14 credits in two approved subjects and one or more non-approved subjects **does not guarantee entrance to some NZ Universities in 2011.**

For example to be automatically accepted into any degree course at Victoria University you will need to have the following:

- Achieved University Entrance
- Achieved the **Guaranteed Entry Score** (GES) of **120 points from approved subjects**
- Fulfil any other degree specific requirements e.g. performance audition
- Apply by 10th December for study in 2011

The GES is calculated based on your **best 80 credits.**

A maximum of 24 credits can come from each subject.

GES can be based on fewer than 80 credits.

Where: Excellence = 4 points, Merit = 3 points, Achieved = 2 points

NCEA Approved Subjects for University Entrance

Accounting

Agriculture & Horticulture

Biology

Chemistry

Chinese

Classical Studies

Computing

Cook Islands Maori

Dance

Design (Practical Art)

Drama

Economics

English

French

Geography

German

Graphics

Health Education

History

History of Art

Indonesian

Japanese

Korean

Latin

Mathematics Calculus

Media Studies

Music Studies

Painting (Practical Art)

Photography (Practical Art)

Physical Education

Physics

Printmaking (Practical Art)

Samoan

Science

Sculpture (Practical Art)

Social Studies

Spanish

Statistics and Modelling

Te Reo Maori (or Rangatira)

Technology

STUDENT GUIDELINES FOR INTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF UNIT AND ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Expectation of Teachers

- A course outline, including an assessment plan, is provided at the start of the year
- Copies of the standards offered will be provided.
- Instructions for assessment of internal standards will be in writing and meet NZQA and school standards.
- Marked work will be checked with students.
- Student work is retained as required by NZQA

Expectation of Students

- Know what is required and when.
- Hand work in on time.
- Attending assessments comes before other commitments.
- The only class time that can be used for internal assessment is the time allocated to the subject
- Test procedures such as no cell-phones must be adhered to. Work submitted for assessment must be entirely your own.
- At the end of the year check, and sign as correct, an individual computer printout of grades to be submitted to NZQA

Appeals Procedures

- Once the grading of work has been explained you will be asked to sign that you understand and accept the grade.
- If you think your grade is not correct fill in a Query of Grade form for your teacher or the Head of Department.
- The teacher or Head of Department will go through you concerns with you.
- If you still feel unfairly treated see Mrs Clitheroe within 5 school days.
A formal review process will be put in place.

Special Consideration for an Internal Standard

- If you miss an assessment you may not need to apply for Special Consideration. This is only essential if there is only one assessment for the Standard.
- If you want an extension **Special Consideration for an Internal Standard** fill in an application form. Special arrangements can be made:
 - for approved activities such as school sports.
Get ***permission before you go way!***
You may be asked to do the assessment before you leave.
 - for sickness. A ***medical certificate*** is required.
 - for a close bereavement.
See Mrs Clitheroe to find out what ***evidence*** is required.
 - difficult personal circumstances.
Some evidence is needed, see Mrs Clitheroe.
- Achieved, Merit or Excellence can only be awarded if there is evidence of the standard reached.

Derived Grade Process for Standards assessed in the External Examinations

If you think you are eligible for derived grades for standards assessed in the external examinations see Mrs Clitheroe. You will be given a form for you to complete. If you meet requirements the school will provide NZQA with derived grades based on your performance in our school.

Special Needs

Special assessment conditions such as reader/writers or extra time are available for students who are identified as meeting certain criteria. If you have queries about this contact Mrs Clitheroe.

Useful websites:

You can assess a copy of the calendar for internal assessment on the school website: www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz

NZQA website is: www.nzqa.govt.nz

An award winning website for revision and help for English, Mathematics and Science is: www.studyit.org.nz

Dates to look out for:

March – Candidate information sheets from NZQA

March – Talk for Parents on NCEA

March/April – Parent teacher interviews

June – Candidate information sheets including how to access the web

June – School Reports

July – Fees due to school (cheques to Sacred Heart College for \$75)

August – Parent teacher interviews

October – School Record of Progress Report

November – NCEA examinations start

TRENDS IN PERCENTAGES OF YEAR 11 ACHIEVING NCEA LEVEL ONE

