

## 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 NCEAs are qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework and are intended to be accessible to all sectors of the target market.

The NCEA (Level 3) is designed to:

- acknowledge achievement across a range of learning fields, particularly those identified in the New Zealand Curriculum;
- act as a learning goal; and
- attest to the ability to participate in, and benefit from, further study thereby promoting lifelong learning.

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (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.

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

Both achievement standards and unit standards can contribute credit toward NCEAs. Achievement standards have been written in most conventional school subject areas by expert panels. They differ from unit standards in that they recognise three grades of award within the one standard – achievement, achievement with merit, and achievement with excellence. This allows for flexible assessment practices, and recognises a wide range of individual learning experiences, styles, and levels of attainment.

The NCEA qualifications and achievement standards are designed to:

- motivate learners to achieve to their potential and help them market their achievements;
- assist institutions to guide students and monitor achievement; and
- provide data to assist government and providers to monitor progress in relation to qualification-related education policies.

A range of national certificates exists on the National Qualifications Framework to certify achievement in specialist areas and credit towards those qualifications may also be used to meet NCEA requirements. Credit gained towards other qualifications may also be used to meet the requirements of the NCEAs, provided they are both quality assured and on the NZQA Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion.

The 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.

## Special Notes

The NCEA qualifications can be awarded with the endorsements *with merit* or *with excellence*.

## Credit Range

Level 2 credits	0-20
Level 3 or above credits	60-80
Minimum totals	80

## Requirements for Award of Qualification

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Level 3) will be awarded to people 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 anywhere on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (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.

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (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.

Please note: NQF qualifications have components for which there are automatically transferable credits. Credits gained for the NCEA (Level 2) may be used towards meeting the requirements of the NCEA (Level 3) as well as other qualifications registered on the NQF.

## 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/ncea/acrp/secondary/7/73.html>.

## Credit Inclusion

The National Certificates of Educational Achievement have provision for recognition of credits from other qualifications that are both quality assured and on the Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion. Details of the process for applying for credit inclusion are outlined in the NZQA *Rules and Procedures* publications available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/acrp/secondary/7/741.html>. 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.

**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/ncea/ue/index.html>.

### Award of NQF 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 in section 7 of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) *Rules and Procedures* publications available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/acrp/index.html>.

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.

## Detailed Requirements

As set out above.

## Transition Arrangements

### Version 4

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

Provisions for endorsement of the NCEA with merit or excellence apply to all certificates awarded from 2007 onwards.

Candidates will be able to have any NCEA certificates already awarded retrospectively endorsed with merit or excellence, if the credits gained for these certificates meet the endorsement criteria.

For administrative reasons, applications from candidates who have left school and who wish to apply for retrospective endorsement of a certificate cannot apply until after May 2008. For such candidates, there will be a charge associated with the issuing of the endorsed certificate.

For detailed information see [Review Summaries](#) on the NZQA website.

## Previous versions of the qualification

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

Version 2 was issued to update the purpose statement.

## NQF Registration Information

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	August 2003	N/A
Revision	2	November 2005	N/A
Revision	3	November 2006	N/A
Revision	4	January 2008	N/A

## Standard Setting Body

Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
WELLINGTON

Telephone 04 463 8000  
Facsimile 04 463 8001  
Email [ncea.feedback@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:ncea.feedback@minedu.govt.nz)

## 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	2009
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## Other standard setting bodies whose standards are included in the qualification

NZQA

## Certification

The certificate will only display 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.

NQF 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 accredited by a recognised Quality Assurance Body before they can register credits from assessment against standards. Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards. Accreditation requirements and the moderation system are outlined in the associated Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) for each standard.