



Morrinsville College

Year 11 Course Booklet

2025

- What is NCEA?
- Compulsory subjects.
- What subjects are available next year?



NCEA- What is it and how does it work?

How NCEA works

NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) is the main secondary school qualification in New Zealand.

Usually you study for:

- NCEA Level 1 in Year 11
- NCEA Level 2 in Year 12
- NCEA Level 3 in Year 13

However, sometimes students will complete these different Levels at different times for example, some students maybe finishing off Level 2 while being in Year 13.

NCEA is recognised by employers and tertiary education providers in New Zealand and overseas.


NCEA is part of the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) which ranges from Level 1 to Level 10, and includes certificates, diplomas and degrees.

What does NCEA involve?

NCEA involves choosing subjects, doing assignments such as essays, experiments or tests during the year, and sitting exams or submitting a portfolio at the end of the year.

How is NCEA work assessed?

NCEA work is assessed externally or internally.

- When your work is externally assessed, you usually sit a national exam at the end of the year, which is set and marked by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).
 - When your work is internally assessed, you usually do essays, experiments or tests throughout the year, which are marked by your school.
 - Internal assessment marking is also checked by independent moderators from NZQA to make sure all schools are assessing work to a national standard.
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What are achievement standards and unit standards?

Standards are particular skills or knowledge within a subject. There are two types of standards in NCEA: achievement standards and unit standards.

Subjects such as English and Science can help you gain achievement standards.

- Achievement standards are graded using the 'NAME' system:
 - 'N' for Not Achieved
 - 'A' for Achieved
 - 'M' for achieved with Merit
 - 'E' for achieved with Excellence.

Vocational subjects, such as hairdressing or carpentry, as well as usual subjects, can help you gain unit standards.

- Unit standards are graded:
 - 'A' for 'Achieved'
 - 'N' for 'Not Achieved'.



What are credits?

Each standard is worth a certain number of credits (points). When you achieve a standard, you earn the amount of credits that standard is worth.

How many credits do you need for NCEA?

To gain NCEA Level 1 you need:

- 60 credits at any level (Level 1, 2 or 3)
- 10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits – (Common Assessment Activity).

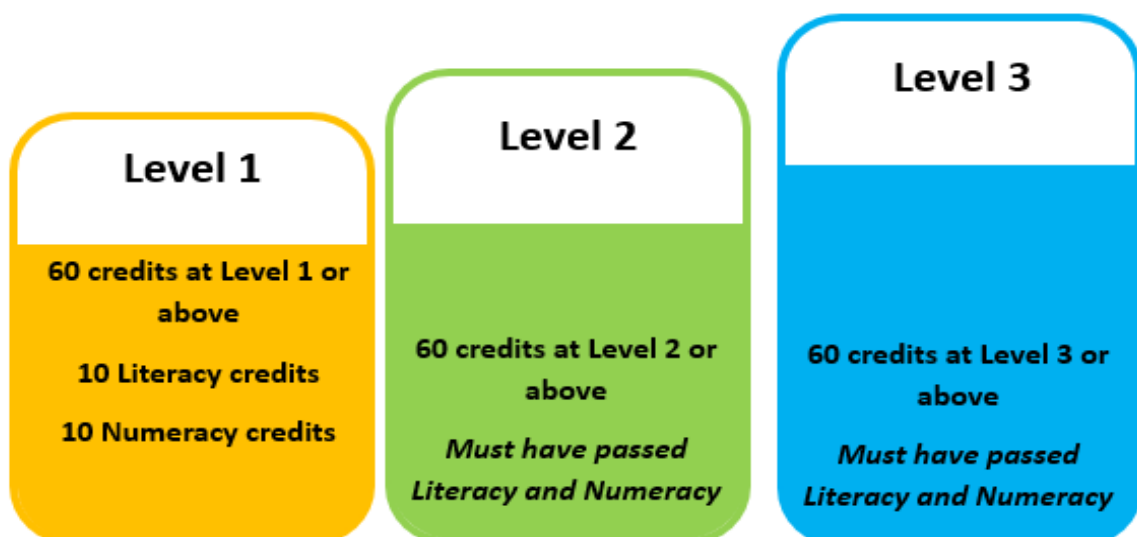
(You may have already gained your Literacy and Numeracy credits in Year 10)

To gain NCEA Level 2 you need:

- a minimum of 60 credits at Level 2 or above; and
- have gained your 10 Literacy and 10 Numeracy credits

To gain NCEA Level 3 you need:

- a minimum of 60 credits at Level 3 or above; and
- have gained your 10 Literacy and 10 Numeracy credits



Note: Your Literacy and Numeracy credits DO NOT count towards your 60 credits. These are counted separately.



How many credits do you need for NCEA?

Literacy and Numeracy Credits

- Literacy and numeracy credits are available through a Common Assessment Activity (CAA) or range of other subjects. CAA will be offered to Year 11 twice in 2025.
- Literacy credits show that a learner can demonstrate reading and writing skills.
- Numeracy credits show that a learner can demonstrate knowledge on number, measurement, data, spatial properties, location, navigation and mathematical relationships.

You may have gained your Literacy and Numeracy credits in Year 10 however, if you did not pass the assessments, you can still pass your Literacy and Numeracy in Year 11.

How do I get merit and excellence grades and endorsements?

The criteria for merit or excellence grades vary depending on the subject. However, as a general guide:

- 'achieved' means that you demonstrated elementary level skills or knowledge.
- 'merit' means that you demonstrated intermediate level skills or knowledge.
- 'excellence' means that you demonstrated highly developed skills or knowledge.

Other things to aim for are subject and overall endorsements. These certificates of achievement show that you are working at those higher levels and can become more important as you work through NCEA and look at entering tertiary education.



Subject endorsement

If you want to get a merit or excellence subject endorsement, you need to achieve 14 or more merit or excellence credits in that subject in a single year.

For example, if you're aiming to get NCEA Level 1 English with excellence you have to get enough English achievement standards at excellence level to add up to 14 credits or more.

At least three of these credits need to be from externally assessed achievement standards, plus at least three credits from internally assessed achievement standards.

Overall Endorsements

For an overall endorsement students must gain 50 credits at either Merit or Excellence level. So, if a student has 50 Level 1 credits at Excellence they may have their Level 1 certificate endorsed with Excellence. Likewise, if a student gains 50 credits at Merit (or Merit and Excellence) at Level 1 their NCEA Level 1 certificate may be endorsed with Merit.

Who to see for more information:

Year 11 Dean – Mr Duncan. Mike-duncan@morrroll.school.nz

Careers Adviser - Mrs Thomas. Jane-thomas@morrroll.school.nz

NCEA Principal's Nominee - Mr Prasad. Nilesh-prasad@morrroll.school.nz





Subject Options

Students doing NCEA must consider their choice of subjects very carefully. They should consult with their parents/caregivers, Careers Adviser and Dean to decide which subjects to take and how these choices will progress to the next level at school or tertiary education. When picking your subjects you need to think about that rather than just picking your classes that friends are in.

Core Subjects (*Compulsory subjects for all Year 11*)

- English – This is split into English and English Literacy
- Maths – This is split into Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy
- Science
- Physical Education (1 period per week)

Students need to pick any three optional classes which they will study for the whole year. It is important that students and their parents/caregivers are aware that some subjects have compulsory fees.

Optional Subjects

- Art
 - Design
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Music
 - Te Reo
 - Te Ao Māori
 - Te Ao Haka
 - Japanese
 - Sports Science
 - Health
 - Home Economics (food and nutrition)
 - Agriculture and Horticulture Science
 - Geography
 - History
 - Commerce
 - Digital Technologies
Computer Science
 - Electronics and Design
Technology
 - Design Technology Wood
 - Design Technology Metal
 - Waikato Trades Academy
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Year 11 Subjects

Compulsory subjects

Year 11 English (11ENG)

In this course you will study the accurate use of the English language and English literature texts. This will include visual and written texts, development of written, oral and visual language skills and extending understanding of themes in literature. The course will focus on teaching and learning of these skills. You will be offered a selection of four assessments.

Year 11 English Literacy (11EL)

In this course you will study towards achieving the prerequisite CAAs for NCEA. This includes the accurate use of the English language in writing and reading and understanding a range of texts. You will also be offered one or two Level 1 Achievement Standards.

Students will be placed in one of two English courses 11ENG, or 11EL this will be decided by your Dean and teacher input.

Mathematics (11MAT)

This course is designed to give students a broad knowledge of the mathematical skills used in many careers beyond school. It will cover all areas of the mathematics curriculum: number, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics and probability. Students will be taught to solve real world problems and how to give clear explanations and reasoning for their solutions. They will also explore and learn to interpret a variety of different types of data.

Mathematics Numeracy (11NUM)

This course is designed to support students to pass the Numeracy CAA. It covers all areas of the mathematics curriculum, though at a slightly lower level than the 11MAT course, reflecting the requirements of the CAA. Students will also have the opportunity to sit up to two internal achievement standards. Successful students will be adequately prepared to take NCEA Level 2 Statistics in Year 12.

Students will be placed in one of two Math courses 11MAT, or 11NUM this will be decided by your Dean and teacher input.

Science (11SCI)

The Science learning area has a range of subject strands which include Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space Science. Students will develop an understanding of the role science plays in the world around us. Science learning is theoretical and practical. Students will learn through observation, investigation and testing ideas to explain the world around us.

Physical Education (11PE)

Students will take one period of Physical Education each week. Students will experience a range of physical activity sessions throughout the year to improve their personal growth and development, interpersonal skills, decision making and examine factors influencing their participation.





Option Subjects

Visual Art (11ART)

Year 11 Art focuses on Identity and self-expression, and how each can be translated within Art. Students will learn a range of painting techniques and drawing skills that will help them in each assessment. There are 2 internal assessments, and 1 external that are 5 credits each. Students will go on a trip to Kai-a-te-mata Marae in term 1. Students are required to have an art pack that has their own paint, brushes and an A3 folder to store their work.



Please note a student cannot take both 11ART & 11DTD because these courses have the same achievement standards.

Design (11DTD)


This course offers students the ability to create artworks in the disciplines of photography, digital media, and illustration. The disciplines of drawing, photography and design are covered in some depth. Students will expand their photography skills and understanding of photographic composition and conventions. They will then combine these skills with either manual or computer aided drawing and design to produce a related series of work. This course focuses on creativity using a variety of different media that includes both practical and computer-generated applications of ideas and techniques. Students are given the opportunity to learn relevant and specific practices, processes, techniques, technologies and conventions through the development and refinement of artworks. This will help students to successfully identify and communicate meaning visually and create a cohesive thematic body of work.

Please note a student cannot take both 11DTD & 11ART because these courses have the same achievement standards.

Dance (11DAN)

Dance is a course for those people who love moving and working with others. The course covers all genres of dance, with an initial emphasis on ballet for technique. The course works on fitness and strength and safe dancing practice. Students explore their own choreography as well as work with outside choreographers. There are opportunities to go and see shows in Hamilton which enrich our programme. You don't have to have had any dance training to do the course, but you do need a willingness to learn and participate.





Drama (11DRM)

Drama is about exploring text, sub text, movement, emotion and relationships through the use of dramatic techniques. Dramatic theorists are also introduced in this course. World theatre, Theatre Aotearoa and different genres of theatre are part of the course. Working together as an ensemble is fundamental to Year 11 Drama. Year 11 students are part of our showcases and shows either as crew or on stage. Drama is great for building self-confidence, but also for learning how to work as a team and develop empathy for others. You do not need to have done Junior Drama to do Level One Drama, but you do need to want to learn, perform and be part of a fantastic group of learners.

Music (11MUS)

This course is a mixture between our traditional performance Music Course and the Vocational Industry Course, which allows students to learn skills through a practical approach to music performance and production. Students will have an opportunity to perform, compose and study a wide range of music theory and music technology.

This course is designed to lead students onto tertiary study, industry-based work or for the continued development and enjoyment of the discipline. **Special Requirements: Students must be learning an instrument either through school or community.**




Te Reo (11TER)

Year 11 Te Reo will be taught at NCEA Level 1 at levels 5-6 of the curriculum. Student learning contexts will involve, Kura (School), Kāinga (Home), Kai (Food) and Te Ao Taiohi (Teenage World). Year 11 Te Reo will be used to set a base so students can move on to Te Reo NCEA Level 2 in Year 12.

Te Ao Māori (11TEA)

Year 11 Te Ao Māori is a course designed to teach students about different aspects of the Te Ao Māori (the Māori World), while assisting them in gaining their NCEA qualifications. Students will be working at Level 1 NCEA. All standards are Unit Standards that have been taken from a cross section of learning subjects.





Te Ao Haka (11TAH)

This course is for students passionate about kapa haka. It allows them to use their passion to work towards achieving NCEA Levels 1. Students are required to do both practical and theoretical aspects.



Japanese (11JAP)

The aim of this course is to continue to develop the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening and to learn more of Japanese life and culture. There is a scholarship opportunity to go to Japan for a successful applicant. Topics: food, free time and leisure, school life, shopping, family and friends, hometown, and country.

Sports Science (11PED)

Demonstrating using a range of movement skills and strategies in two activities and reflecting on how places and spaces influence movement in the given activities. Using and describing strategies that promote Kotahitanga in movement, e.g., working effectively as a team. Understanding biophysical aspects, such as functional anatomy, biomechanics (study of movement), exercise physiology and nutrition related to human body movement.



Health Studies (11HEA)

Health Studies is about exploring health and well-being by developing personal and interpersonal capabilities that can enhance hauora (physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing). Drawing conclusions about how wellbeing is affected by an activity in the short and long-term. Understanding factors relevant to a health-related situation that might influence a decision-making process.





Home Economics (11HEC)

Students study this subject in the context of a multicultural, changing, contemporary society. It explores the relationship between food, nutrition and health and offers the opportunity for creative, investigative, and analytical study. Students will experience a variety of practical cooking lessons designed to develop their skills and to reinforce their theoretical knowledge and understanding. A range of topics such as preparing food safely, food sustainability, food from other cultures, the under consumption of fruit and vegetables and the designing of food products are covered throughout the year.

Agriculture and Horticulture (11AGH)


This course provides students with an introduction to the New Zealand Primary Industries. Students will study the life processes of plants and livestock, and how they are managed within the primary industries. They will explore the purpose of the New Zealand's primary industries and the reasons behind their location. Students will study the principles of soil, and the importance of environmentally sustainable farming practices while gaining understanding of the cultural importance of these aspects of the industry. Students will also be able to partake in a selection of practical Agricultural and Horticultural Unit Standards that will enable them to gain practical primary industry skills.



Geography (11GEO)

Geography is the study of people and places. We ask the question “What is where, why is it there, and why care?”, so we can make sense of the world around us. ‘Place’ can involve both natural and cultural environments, for example rivers, mountains, buildings and infrastructure. Students learn to think spatially and to use maps, visual images, inquiry processes and geographic information systems (GIS) to analyse and present information. Students critically explore different national and global challenges, considering a range of perspectives, and presenting solutions. Geographers are investigators. They collect and interpret data to explore environments and change. They are future thinkers and problem solvers. Geographers are employable in a range of careers and studying the subject provides an excellent pathway to life beyond Morrinsville College.





History (11HIS)

History explores global and local events that have been significant to New Zealanders. Students will gain an understanding of their heritage and their place in a wider global context. Level One History is based around an overall theme of Conflict, both locally and globally. Through learning in the classroom and on a field trip, students will gain skills around forming arguments, considering different perspectives and critical thinking, among others. They will be able to consider how we can build a better future by learning from the past.

Commerce (11COM)


Commerce combines business, accounting and economic concepts and models to enable students to make sense of society and help them solve problems. Ākonga (students) will build the knowledge, skills, and values that they need to participate in the economic world. The impact of decisions will be analysed in terms of their impacts on sustainability. Learning and assessment will examine Māori, Pacific, and different approaches to commerce, and business models from whānau and organisation contexts. Business Studies forms the main academic content of this subject. Accounting features in terms of budgeting and income statements. Economics is represented by the supply and demand model.

Digital Technologies Computer Science (11DTS)

Students will develop computational thinking skills and the ability to design and develop digital outcomes. They will also learn how computers represent and process data. They will also be able to use programming languages such as Python, C++, and C#. These will enable students to incorporate interface design, to solve real-life problems, collaborate in small teams, freehand design sketches, influential designer, suitable for end-users. Another exciting area is where students will apply skills in creating websites using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. They will learn about the digital design and development processes used to create, test, and evaluate digital outcomes such as websites, movie trailer, games, and 3D Modelling designs. Generally, they will develop skills, and understand how Digital Technologies outcomes impact on the people who use them.

Electronics and Design (11ELE)

Electronics is a combination of two subjects: Electronic and Design and Visual Communication (DVC). *DVC*: teaches students to design. Through allocated design briefs students work to complete a project. The focus is on aesthetics and function (practical and theoretical working of parts and systems) — concepts related to architectural design, product design, engineering and science. *Electronics*: Students will also learn about electronic components and the programming of simple microprocessors such as Microbit and the Arduino Uno. Students will learn to use TinkerCad and simple robotics. Electronics will be covered in the second semester.





Wood (11DTW)

Design Technology Wood is a practical course and explores two learning contexts: the design and manufacture of products. There is also the flexibility to incorporate additional materials from outside the designated contexts. Students examine social and cultural values of materials and associated technologies. The practical project/s at Level 1 are designing and creating a bedside cupboard and learning the skills of wood bending.

Metal (11DTM)

Design Technology Metal is a practical course and explores two learning contexts: the design and manufacture of products as the major focus. There is also the flexibility to incorporate additional materials from outside the designated contexts. Students examine social and cultural values of materials and associated technologies. The practical project/s at Level 1 are designing and creating a rocket stove and developing skills on the lathe.



Waikato Trades Academy (WTA)

The Waikato Trades Academy is a secondary-tertiary partnership programme where students are enrolled in two institutions – WINTEC and Morrinsville College. Students on WTA attend WINTEC for one day a week throughout the year, and complete NCEA and gain trades training credits. WTA is a two-year project-based programme – the first year is generic, the second year is specialised. There are two programmes being offered 1. Construction and Infrastructure (Building) 2. Manufacturing and Technology (Automotive Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering) ***Indicate your interest on the Subject Choice form as your number 1. 8 places are available at Level One – students will need to apply to Mrs Thomas in order to be selected.***