

# Aide-Memoire: Unit standard use in NCEAs – supplementary information

<b>To:</b>	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education
<b>From:</b>	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
<b>Date:</b>	13 May 2024
<b>Reference:</b>	OC00815

## Purpose

1. This aide memoire is to provide you with supplementary information, following our recent discussion with you about the aide memoire 'Unit standard use in NCEAs' (OC00781 refers).
2. NZQA proposes to proactively release this briefing as part of the next publication of documents.

## Discussion

3. There were two follow up questions in relation to our discussion on 'Unit standard use in NCEAs'. The first was a request for more information about the number of credits from unit standards used, for the sub-group of students who used unit standards to achieve the minimum credit requirements for their NCEA (OC00781, paragraph 38 refers). The second was a request for more information about the New Zealand Certificates in Foundation Skills Levels 1 and 2 (OC00781, paragraphs 45 to 48 refer). The supplementary information requested is provided below.

### *Using unit standards to achieve the minimum credit requirements for an NCEA*

4. In OC00781 we provided you with the proportion of students who used credits from unit standards to achieve the minimum credit requirements for their NCEA, at the typical year level, in 2023. We noted that in 2023, 36% of Year 12 NCEA Level 2 achievers used Level 2 or above unit standards to achieve their NCEA Level 2, and 31% of Year 13 NCEA Level 3 achievers used Level 3 or above unit standards to achieve their NCEA Level 3.

	Total Students	Achieved NCEA	Used unit standards to achieve the minimum credit requirements	
Year 12 NCEA Level 2	60,074	44,001	15,977	36%
Year 13 NCEA Level 3	46,450	31,446	9,788	31%

*Table 1: The proportion of students who used credits from unit standard to achieve the minimum credit requirements for their NCEA at the typical year level, 2023.*

5. You requested additional information about the number of unit standard credits the 15,977 Year 12 NCEA Level 2 Achievers and the 9,788 Year 13 Level 3 Achievers needed to meet the minimum credit requirements of their NCEAs.
6. The minimum Level 2 credits required to achieve NCEA Level 2 is 60 Level 2 or above credits. For context in 2023, the average number of Level 2 credits Year 12 students who achieved NCEA Level 2 had was 102.

7. The minimum Level 3 credits required to achieve NCEA Level 3 is 60 Level 3 or above credits. For context in 2023, the average number of Level 3 credits Year 13 students who achieved NCEA Level 3 had was 90.
8. Table 2 below provides a frequency table, by bands of 5 credits each, of the unit standard credits required to meet the 60 Level 2 credit requirement for the 15,977 Year 12 Level 2 students. 20% of these students needed fewer than 10 credits from unit standards to achieve the minimum Level 2 credit requirements for NCEA Level 2.

<b>Unit standard credits required to meet the 60 Level 2 credit minimum for NCEA Level 2</b>	<b>Students (n)</b>	<b>Students (%)</b>
0-4	1607	10.1%
5-9	1606	10.1%
10-14	1514	9.5%
15-19	1428	8.9%
20-24	1363	8.5%
25-29	1278	8.0%
30-34	1299	8.1%
35-39	1204	7.5%
40-44	1198	7.5%
45-49	1159	7.3%
50-54	1233	7.7%
55-59	745	4.7%
60	343	2.1%
	<b>15,977</b>	

*Table 2: Frequency table by bands of 5 credits each, of the number of unit standard credits needed by the 15,977 Year 12 Level 2 students to achieve the minimum credit requirements for NCEA Level 2, 2023*

9. On average, these 15,977 Year 12 students achieved 31 Level 2 or Level 3 credits from achievement standards.

10. Table 3 below provides a frequency table by bands of 5 credits each, of the unit standard credits required to meet the 60 Level 3 credit requirement for the 9,788 Year 13 Level 3 students. 31% of these students needed fewer than 10 credits from unit standards to achieve the minimum Level 3 credit requirements for NCEA Level 3.

<b>Unit standard credits required to meet the 60 Level 3 credit minimum for NCEA Level 3</b>	<b>Students (n)</b>	<b>Students (%)</b>
0-4	1678	17.1%
5-9	1362	13.9%
10-14	1060	10.8%
15-19	788	8.1%
20-24	642	6.6%
25-29	628	6.4%
30-34	627	6.4%
35-39	613	6.3%
40-44	562	5.7%
45-49	596	6.1%
50-54	636	6.5%
55-59	430	4.4%
60	166	1.7%
	<b>9,788</b>	

*Table 3: Frequency table by bands of 5 credits each, of the number of unit standard credits needed by the 9,788 Year 13 Level 3 students to achieve the minimum credit requirements for NCEA Level 3, 2023*

11. On average, these 9,788 Year 13 students achieved 34 Level 3 credits from achievement standards.
12. Our previous aide memoire (OC00781, paragraph 28 and Appendix 1 refers) provides detail about the unit standards in which senior secondary students are being assessed. Information about the proportion of unit standard assessments occurring in schools or in another context (e.g. workforce development council, private provider, polytechnic, wananga, employer) is provided in paragraph 31 (again in OC00781).

*New Zealand Certificates in Foundation Skills (Levels 1 and 2)*

13. In OC00781, we provided you with information about the New Zealand Certificates in Foundation Skills (Levels 1 and 2). We noted that in 2023, 181 senior secondary students achieved the Level 1 certificate, and 65 achieved the New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills (Level 2). You requested more detail about these qualifications.
14. NZQA is the qualifications developer.
15. The Level 1 certificate is a 60 credit qualification and 92 organisations have NZQA-approved programmes to deliver this qualification including 40 schools.

16. Table 4 below shows the Level 1 certificate outcomes and indicative credits.

Outcome	Description	Indicative credits
1	Identify and develop self-management and resilience strategies to organise personal life, maintain well-being and continue learning.	15
2	Interact appropriately with people from their own and other cultures, individually and in group environments, including work and community.	10
3	Apply basic skills in literacy and numeracy and digital technology, as well as a range of other literacies, in structured and familiar contexts.	20
4	Identify leadership qualities of a rangatira, and reflect on how these relate to their own strengths, personal goals and future pathways.	15

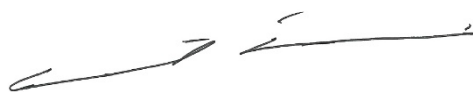
*Table 4: New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills Level 1 outcomes*

17. The Level 2 certificate is also a 60 credit qualification and 60 organisations have NZQA-approved programmes to deliver this qualification.

18. Table 5 below shows the Level 2 certificate outcomes and indicative credits.

Outcome	Description	Indicative credits
1	Apply self-management and resilience strategies to organise personal life, maintain well-being and continue learning.	15
2	Work collaboratively and effectively in a group containing a range of people and cultures to achieve an outcome.	10
3	Develop and apply skills in literacy and numeracy and digital technology, as well as a range of other literacies, in unfamiliar contexts.	20
4	Describe the strengths that define their rangatiratanga and identify how these can guide their short-term goals; and future pathways.	15

*Table 5: New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills Level 2 outcomes*



**Dr Grant Klinkum**

Chief Executive, NZQA

13 May 2024

**Hon Erica Stanford**

Minister of Education

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