



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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Provisional 2020 Enrolment-based NCEA and University Entrance National Attainment Statistics

Date:	19 January 2021	NZQA Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In confidence	Report No.	CR 21782

Action Sought

Deadline

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. note that provisional 2020 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) enrolment-based national attainment statistics have been produced.b. note that schools will be provided with access to their own school's provisional attainment statistics and the national provisional statistics on Friday 22 January 2021 in the late afternoon.c. note that the 2020 provisional enrolment-based statistics show that overall national attainment of NCEA and University Entrance (with the addition of learning recognition credits (LRCs)) is similar or better than in 2019.d. note that final 2020 statistics will be made available in April 2021.e. note that the 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for Māori and Pacific students at all NCEA levels and for UE.f. note that these statistics indicate that the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE were successful in supporting students to achieve in 2020.g. note that NZQA and the Ministry of Education will be undertaking further analysis to quantify the impact of the COVID-19 related modifications on NCEA and UE attainment, and will report back to you by late-February 2021.	

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes

Round Robin: Yes

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 st Contact
[REDACTED]	Deputy Chief Executive Assessment Division	04-463 [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	√
Grant Klinkum	CE	04-463 4365	[REDACTED]	

The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

- Ministry of Education
 Tertiary Education Commission
 Other (specify)

Minister's Office to Complete:

- Noted
 Seen
 Approved
 Needs change
 Withdrawn
 Overtaken by Events
 See Minister's comments
 Declined

Referred to:

Comments:

Provisional 2020 Enrolment-based NCEA and University Entrance National Attainment Statistics

Executive Summary

The provisional 2020 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) attainment statistics are now available. This report provides an overview of these statistics, broken down by ethnicity, gender and decile. It includes some early analysis on the effect on attainment of the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE.

The 2020 provisional enrolment-based statistics show that overall national attainment of NCEA (with the addition of LRCs) is similar or better than in 2019. This is an indication that the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE were successful in supporting students to achieve in 2020. It also reflects the extraordinary efforts of teachers and schools, and the resilience of students throughout what was a challenging year.

The 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for Māori and Pacific students at all NCEA levels and for UE.

The 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for all decile bands for Year 12 Level 2 and Year 13 Level 3 NCEA and for UE. NCEA attainment for Year 11 Level 1 for decile band 8 -10 has declined by 4 percentage points.

Analysis shows that NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance attainment rates in Auckland continue to be slightly better than those outside of Auckland. This provides further indication that the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE were successful in supporting students to achieve in 2020; and that the additional modifications for the Auckland region were appropriate.

NZQA and the Ministry of Education are undertaking further analysis to determine the actual impact of COVID-19 on the learning through 2020 and the efficacy of the policy responses to COVID-19, and will provide you with a preliminary report by late February, followed by a final report.

Recommended Action

It is recommended you:

- a. **note that** provisional 2020 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) enrolment-based national attainment statistics have been produced.
- b. **note that** schools will be provided with access to their own school's provisional attainment statistics and the national provisional statistics on Friday 22 January 2021 in the late afternoon.
- c. **note that** the 2020 provisional enrolment-based statistics show that overall national attainment of NCEA and University Entrance (with the addition of learning recognition credits (LRCs)) is similar or better than in 2019.
- d. **note that** final 2020 statistics will be made available in April 2021.
- e. **note that** the 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for Māori and
- f. Pacific students at all NCEA levels and for UE.
- g. **note that** these statistics indicate that the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE were successful in supporting students to achieve in 2020.

- h. **note that** NZQA and the Ministry of Education will be undertaking further analysis to quantify the impact of the COVID-19 related modifications on NCEA and UE attainment, and will report back to you by late-February 2021.

Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends.

- i. **agree** that this report is proactively released as part of the next publication of documents.

Agree Disagree



Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive
19 January 2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Provisional 2020 Enrolment-based NCEA and University Entrance National Attainment Statistics

Purpose of Report

1. The provisional 2020 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) attainment statistics are now available. This report provides an overview of these statistics, broken down by ethnicity, gender and decile. It includes some early analysis on the effect on attainment of the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE.
2. The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) has been consulted on this briefing and has provided input.

Background

3. On 27 November 2020, NZQA provided you with a briefing on the release schedule for the 2020 NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship results and attainment statistics [CR21400 refers].
4. The 2020 NCEA and UE results will be made available to students on Thursday 21 January 2021. NZQA will make available to school principals and administrators their school's provisional enrolment-based attainment statistics, and the corresponding national and decile comparators on Friday 22 January in the late afternoon. These will be in the 'Principal's Report' and other statistics reports accessible online via their school's secure login.
5. The 2020 examination round went well, with around 140,000 students sitting 120 NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship exams at 419 exam centres across New Zealand, the Cook Islands and Niue. Of the students sitting NCEA exams, 22,590 students from 277 schools sat at least one digital exam, which were offered in 21 subjects. Compared with 2019 (when digital exams were offered in 14 subjects), this is a 55% increase in students and a 41% increase in schools.

COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE

6. In order to ensure that students had a fair and equitable opportunity to achieve their NCEA qualifications and awards in 2020 despite COVID-19 related disruptions, changes to the qualification and award rules were made for the 2020 year. These included the application of learning recognition credits (LRCs), changes to the rules for certificate and course endorsements, and changes to the University Entrance award. Additional modifications for students in Auckland were subsequently announced in September 2020. These changes were developed in consultation with your Professional Advisory Group (PAG).
7. These changes were designed to support students to engage and progress with their assessed learning whilst maintaining the integrity and credibility of the qualification. See Appendix 1 for a summary of these changes.

Overall attainment

NCEA and University Entrance

8. The 2020 provisional enrolment-based statistics show that overall national attainment of NCEA (with the addition of LRCs) is similar or better than in 2019. This indicates that the COVID-19 related modifications to NCEA and UE were successful in supporting students to achieve in 2020.
9. Based on patterns observed in previous years, these provisional attainment statistics are likely to increase by a further one to two percentage points by April 2021 when they are finalised¹. This means that NCEA and UE attainment in 2020 will show across the board improvements on 2019 once statistics are finalised by April 2021.
10. The provisional attainment statistics are as follows:
 - 70.2% of Year 11 students attained NCEA Level 1 (42,996 of 61,223) – a 0.4 percentage point decrease on the final 2019 figure
 - 79.1% of Year 12 students attained NCEA Level 2 (44,625 of 56,401) – a 1.6 percentage point increase on the final 2019 figure
 - 71.4% of Year 13 students attained NCEA Level 3 (33,110 of 46,401) – a 4.1 percentage point increase on the final 2019 figure
 - 51.7% of Year 13 students attained UE (24,012 of 46,401) – a 2.4 percentage point increase on the final 2019 figure.
11. Figure 1 below gives a ten-year view of NCEA and UE attainment. The 2011 to 2019 percentages are final, the 2020 percentages are provisional.

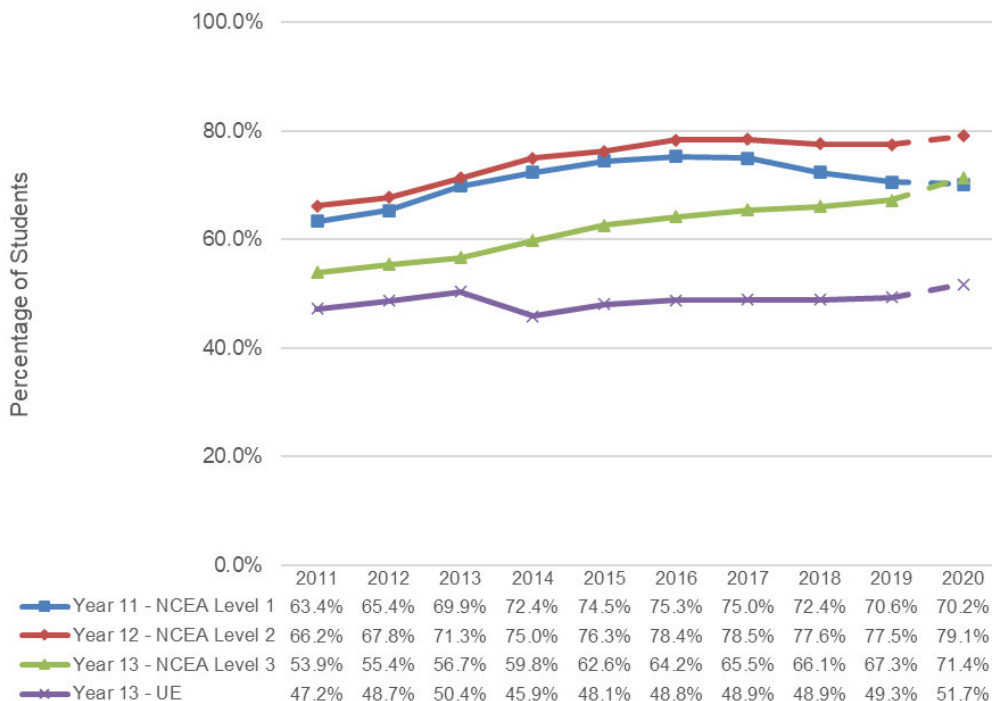


Figure 1: Enrolment-based NCEA and University Entrance Attainment 2011 – 2020 (2020 provisional)

¹ Attainment statistics change over the January to March period as schools continue to submit corrected and late reported internally assessed results and any summer school results, and because of successful review and reconsideration applications (remarks of examination papers).

National attainment by ethnicity, gender and decile band

- 12. Appendix 2 figures 1 to 12 provide a more detailed breakdown of attainment for 2011 to 2020, including by ethnicity, gender and decile band.
- 13. The 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for Māori and Pacific students at all NCEA levels and for UE.
- 14. The 2020 provisional results show an improvement in attainment for all decile bands for Year 12 Level 2 and Year 13 Level 3 NCEA and for UE. NCEA attainment for Year 11 Level 1 for decile band 8 -10 has declined by 4 percentage points. This is reflective of a trend of schools, particularly in higher deciles, moving away from offering NCEA Level 1 to Year 11s.

NCEA Certificate Endorsements

- 15. The thresholds for obtaining a merit or excellence certificate endorsement were lowered from 50 credits to 44 (for Auckland) and 46 (for the rest of New Zealand). National provisional 2020 NCEA certificate endorsement rates show an increase in both merit and excellence endorsement rates for Year 12 NCEA Level 2, and Year 13 NCEA Level 3 compared to final 2019 rates. Year 11 NCEA Level 1 merit endorsements decreased by 1.1 percentage points, while excellence rates increased by 0.2 percentage points. The largest increase was seen in Year 13 NCEA Level 3 with Excellence, with an increase of 2.8 percentage points from 14.8% to 17.6%.
- 16. Figure 2 below provides an overview of merit and excellence certificate endorsements for Year 13 students attaining NCEA Level 3.

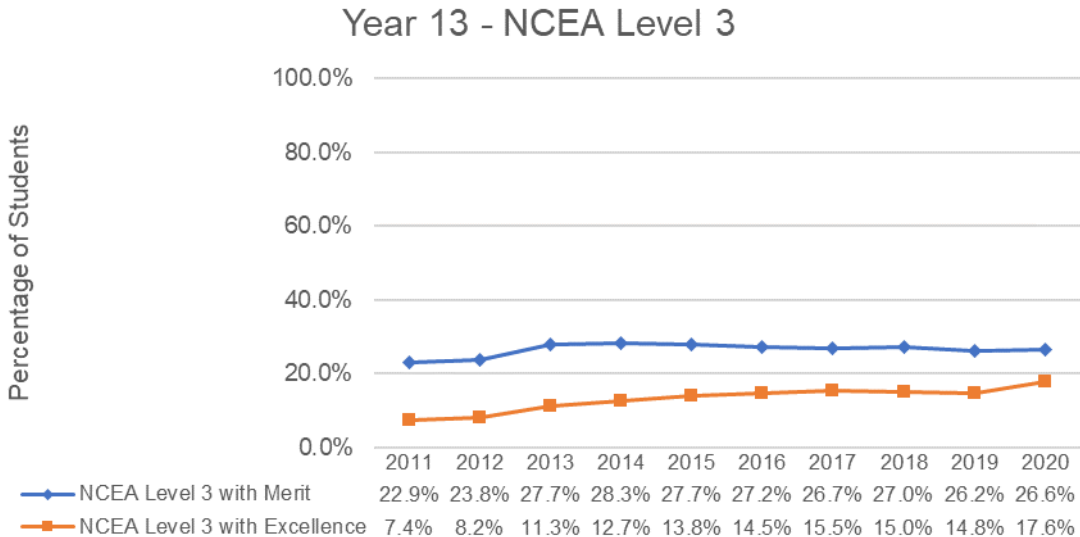


Figure 2: NCEA Level 3 Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 2011-2020 (2020 provisional)

Auckland region compared with the rest of New Zealand

- 17. Students in Auckland received additional support for their NCEAs including extra LRCs and a lower threshold for NCEA certificate endorsement. An analysis of the NCEA and UE attainment trends in Auckland compared to the rest of New Zealand has been undertaken.

18. Analysis shows that NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance attainment rates in Auckland are usually slightly better than those outside of Auckland. This trend has been maintained, although the increase for 2020 Level 3 attainment in Auckland is slightly higher than the historic differential. Overall, this indicates that the additional modifications for the Auckland region were appropriate.

19. Figures 3 and 4 below provides an overview of NCEA Level 3 and UE attainment of Year 13 students in Auckland compared to the rest of New Zealand.

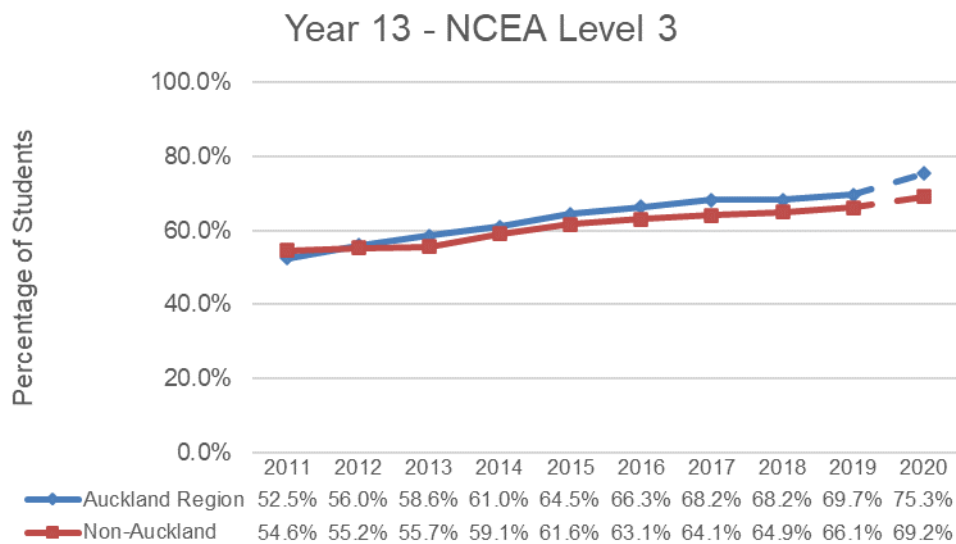


Figure 3: NCEA Level 3 attainment of Year 13 students in Auckland and the rest of New Zealand.

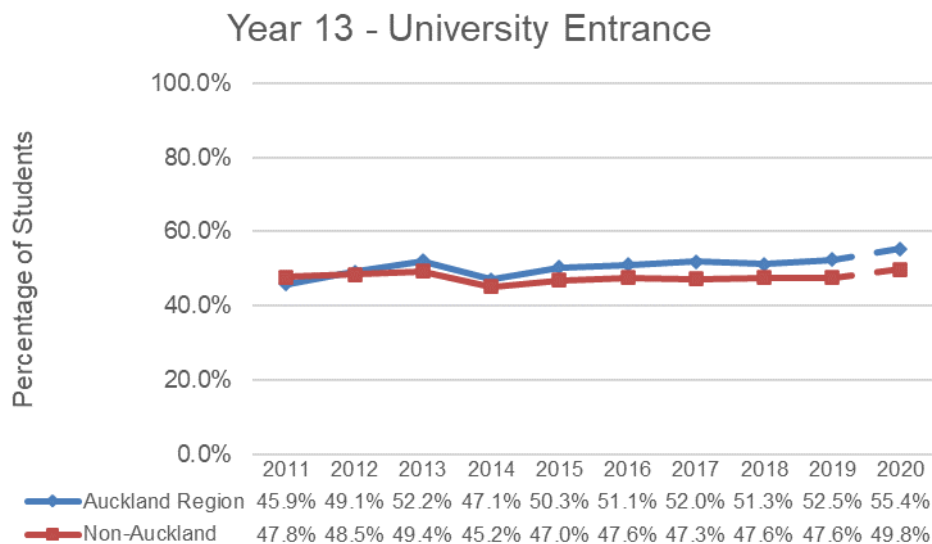


Figure 4: UE attainment of Year 13 students in Auckland and the rest of New Zealand.

Further factors contributing to attainment in 2020

20. Alongside the qualification response to COVID-19 disruption, there were significant other supports available for students and schools through 2020. These likely complemented

the flexibility within NCEA and our secondary education system to maintain attainment during 2020.

21. NZQA and the Ministry provided guidance, templates, and resources to schools and kura to enable responsive assessment and adjustments to course design, and support student learning during and after lockdowns. Examinations were also delayed in 2020 to provide more time for teaching and learning.
22. The Ministry has also undertaken analysis looking at how various measures of senior secondary engagement changed in 2020, and the results are broadly consistent with an increase in attainment. In one published research report, the Ministry found that there was a large decrease in students leaving school in 2020. The decrease was especially large for older students (aged 17+, likely to be in Year 13), Pacific students, lower decile schools, and students in Auckland. All of these groups saw larger increases in provisional attainment.
23. Another Ministry report found that school attendance for senior secondary students was higher in the weeks following both the national and Auckland lockdown than for the same weeks in 2019. (Barriers to attendance were concentrated in primary-aged students.) The Ministry is continuing to examine impacts that COVID-19 is having on various aspects of the education system, including learning prior to NCEA.
24. NZQA is continuing to work with the Ministry to determine the actual impact of COVID-19 on the learning through 2020 and the efficacy of the policy responses to COVID-19.

Next steps

25. After the current analysis has been conducted, the Ministry and NZQA will provide you with a preliminary report by late February, followed by a final report. These will focus on the specific impacts of the policies implemented in 2020 to inform response to any further COVID-19 disruption, and the extent to which the 2020 disruption to learning may require further interventions to address.

COVID-19: NCEA and University Entrance changes for 2020

Additional changes to NCEA and University Entrance (UE) give students a fair opportunity to achieve qualifications and awards despite the disruption to teaching, learning and assessment from COVID-19, while preserving the integrity of NCEA and UE. These changes apply only for 2020.

The additional changes are:

- Students working towards an NCEA can gain additional Learning Recognition Credits, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. For every 5 credits a student achieves towards their NCEA through internal or external assessment, they can be awarded an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 are eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits while those at Levels 2 or 3 are eligible for up to a maximum of 8 additional credits. These will be known as Learning Recognition (LR) credits.
- Students will be awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.
- Current UE requirements have been reduced to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects, from 14 credits in each of three approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet the literacy and numeracy requirement to be awarded University Entrance.

Further changes to NCEA for students in Auckland

Extra learning recognition credits were made available to students in Auckland because of the additional COVID disruption in August.

Changes to earning rate and LR credit maximums for Auckland students.

NCEA Level	LR credit maximum	LR credit earning rate	Total number of credits required from assessment
Level 1	Up to 16 LR credits	1 for 4 credits achieved	64
Level 2	Up to 12 LR credits	1 for 4 credits achieved	68 (48 + 20 from another level)
Level 3	Up to 12 LR credits	1 for 4 credits achieved	68 (48 + 20 from level 2 or higher)

Changes to certificate endorsements

Instead of 46 credits, students now need 44 credits to earn Merit or Excellence Certificate Endorsements.

Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by decile band 2011 – 2020 (2020 provisional)

Figure 1: Year 11 NCEA Level 1

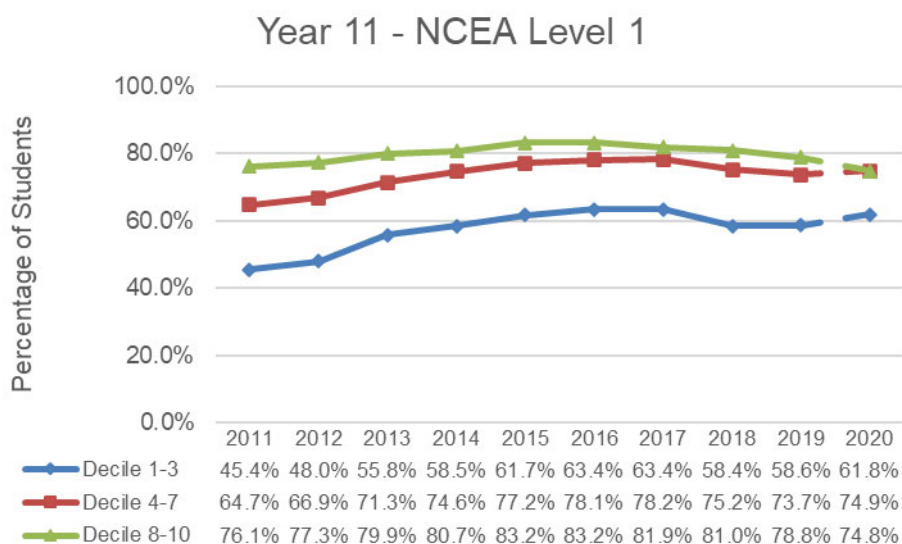


Figure 2: Year 12 NCEA Level 2

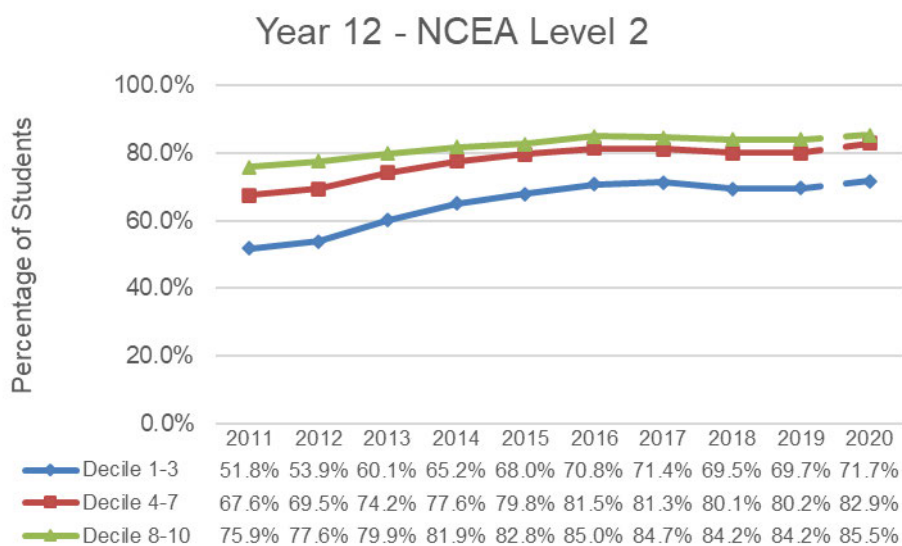


Figure 3: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

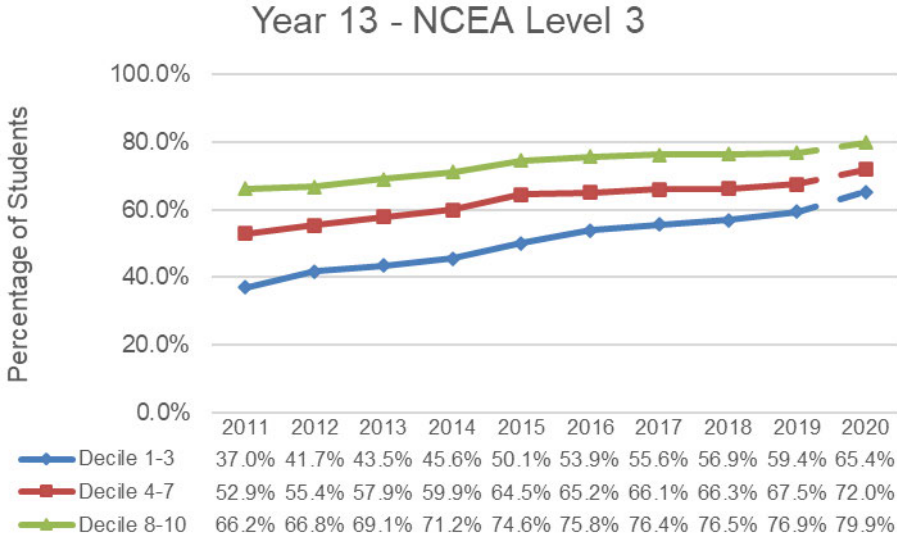
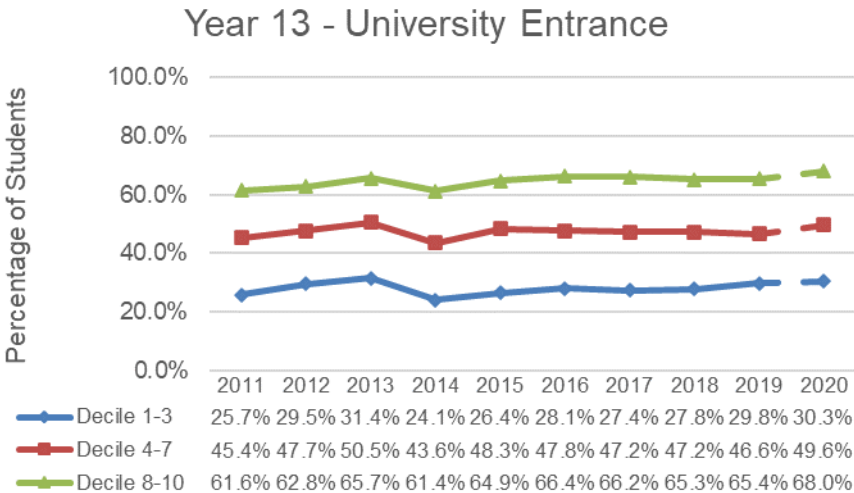


Figure 4: Year 13 University Entrance



Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by ethnicity 2011 – 2020 (2020 provisional)

Figure 1: Year 11 NCEA Level 1

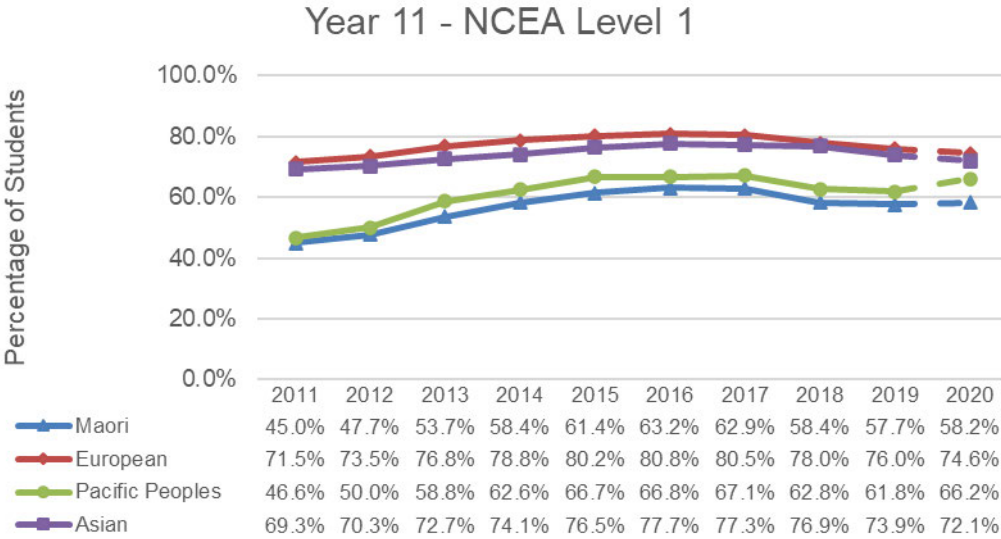


Figure 2: Year 12 NCEA Level 2

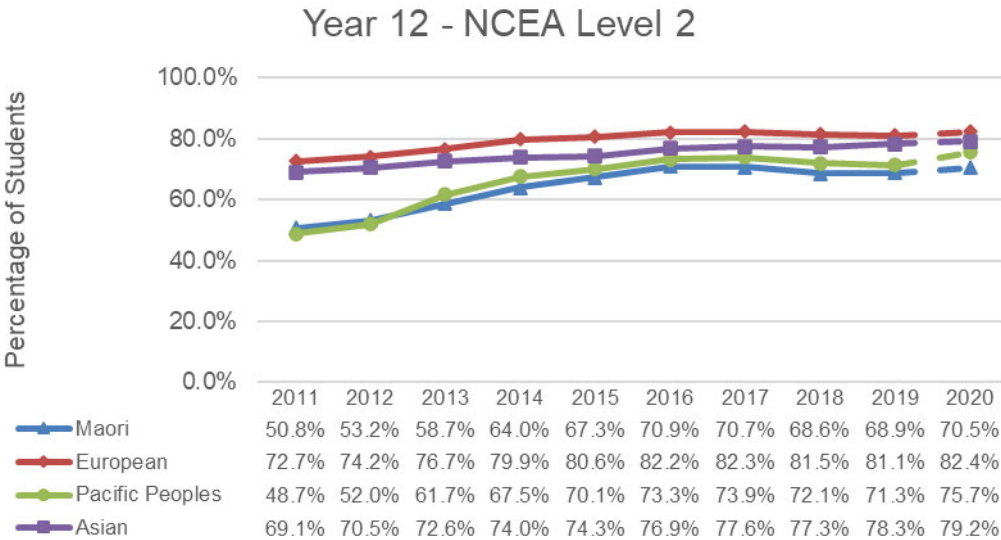


Figure 3: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

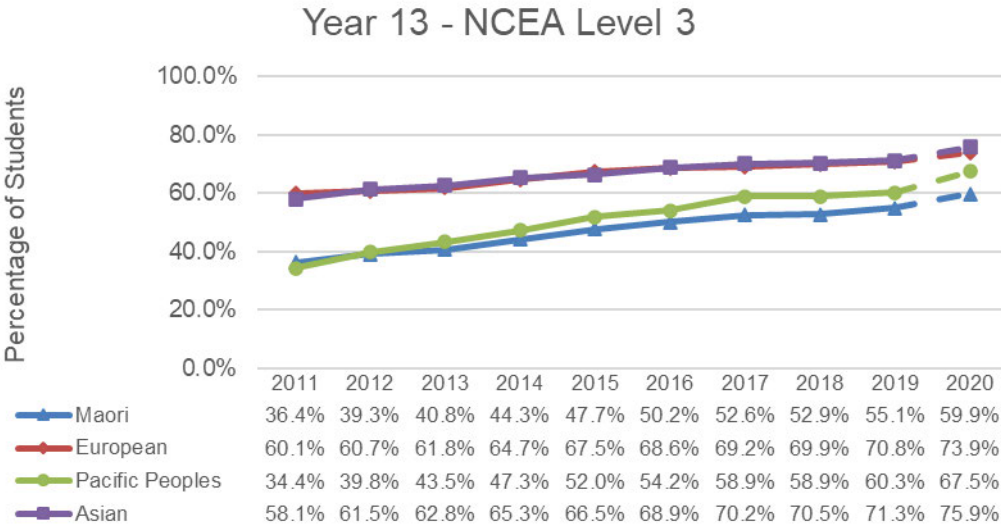
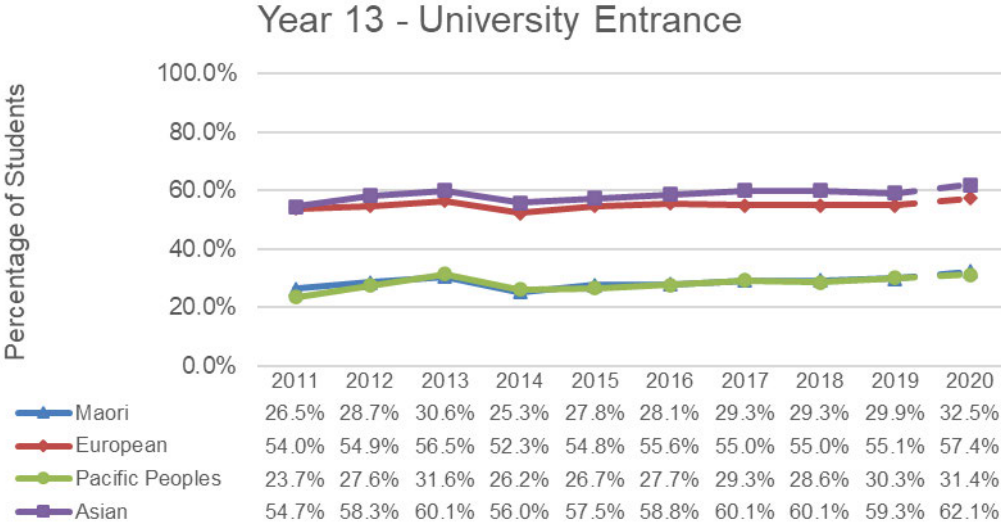


Figure 4: Year 13 University Entrance



Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by gender 2011 – 2020 (2020 provisional)

Figure 1: Year 11 NCEA Level 1

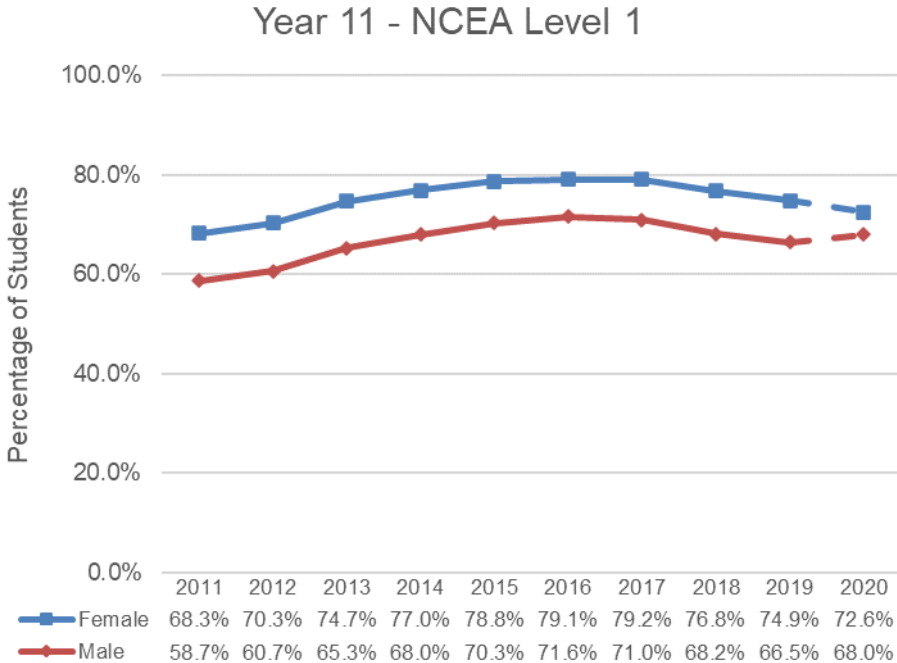


Figure 2: Year 12 NCEA Level 2

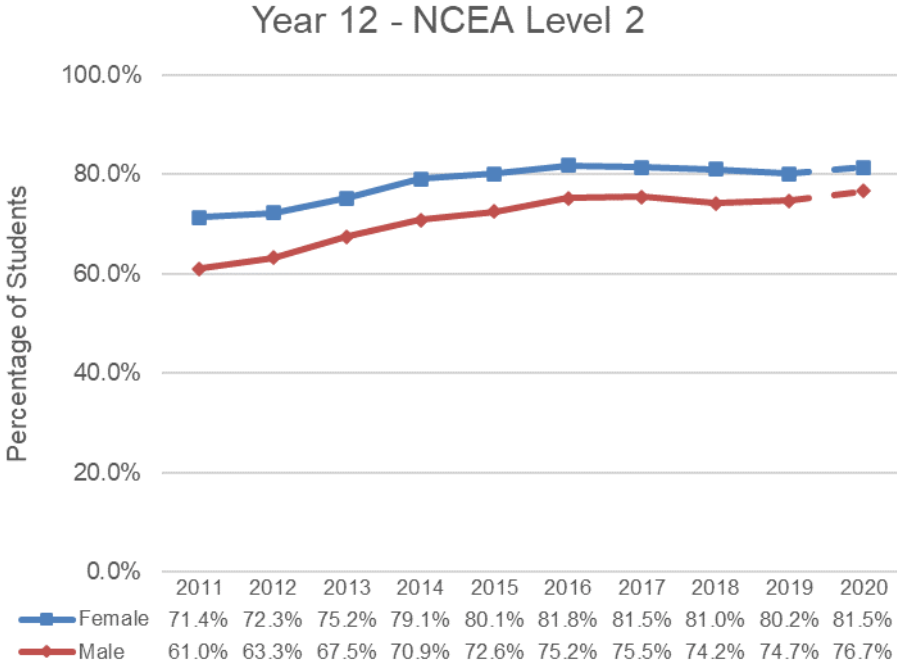


Figure 3: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

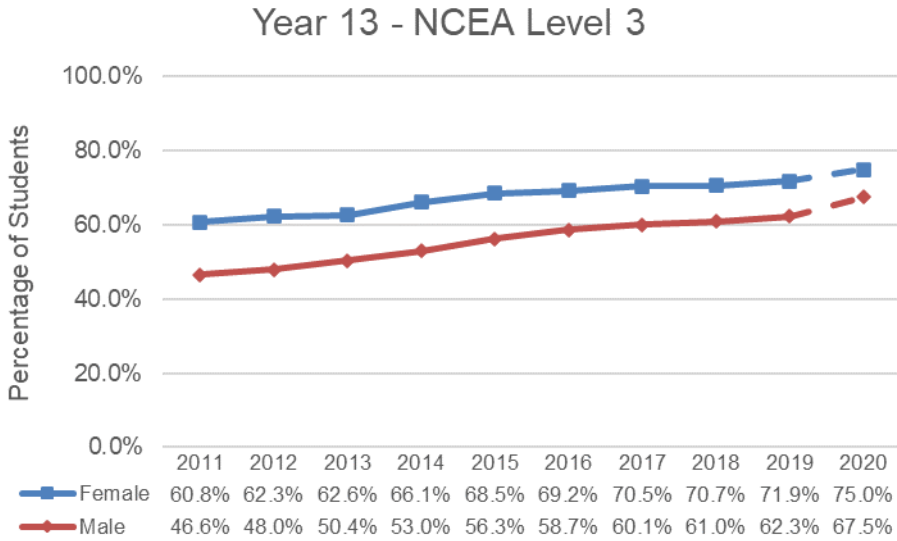


Figure 4: Year 13 University Entrance

