



A whānau guide to help  
your tamaiti succeed

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The best predictor of student success is the extent to which whānau encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their tamaiti's education.

This rauemi aims to help you better understand NCEA and how to best support your tamaiti to achieve their aspirations.

**“Whiria ngā aho o te ako  
kia tū kaha ai te tamaiti a muri ake nei”**

*“Weave together the strands of learning  
and the child of the future will stand strong”*

# Ngā wawata

## Aspirations

Every whānau has aspirations for their tamaiti. Understanding what these are can help you work with your tamaiti to create a plan for success.

What are your aspirations for your tamaiti?

What does your tamaiti aspire to be?

### Achieving NCEA

NCEA stands for the **N**ational **C**ertificate of **E**ducational **A**chievement and is the main qualification for senior secondary school ākonga.

Every NCEA subject is made up of standards that are worth a certain number of credits. There are two types of standards in NCEA - achievement standards and unit standards.

All achievement standards are graded as either 'N' for not achieved, 'A' for achieved, 'M' for merit and 'E' for excellence. Unit standards can follow the same gradings but are mostly graded 'A' for achieved or 'N' for not achieved.

When you achieve a standard, you earn the amount of credits that standard is worth, and it's these credits that count toward your NCEA qualifications.

### Important Information

NCEA is a 60-credit qualification at levels 1, 2, and 3.

To be awarded NCEA ākonga need 60 credits at levels 1, 2 or 3 plus 20 credits from the co-requisite subjects. The co-requisite includes:

**Te Reo Māori** or Literacy (10 credits), **Te Pāngarau** or Numeracy (10 credits)

You only need to gain the 20 co-requisite credits once.

# Te whakatakoto o NCEA

## NCEA Structure

### NCEA: 2023

Previously, ākonga needed to achieve 80 credits.



### NCEA



20 co-requisite **PLUS** 60 credits at Level 1, 2 or 3

# Ngā taunakitanga

## Endorsements

Merit and excellence grades recognise ākonga who have achieved outstanding results.

You can gain a merit or excellence grade for individual achievement standards, as well as a merit or excellence endorsement for individual subjects and NCEA level certificates.

### Achieved



### Merit



### Excellence



Level 2 Graphics

Plans and produces a presentation to communicate design ideas

Plans and produces an effective presentation to communicate design ideas

Plans and produces an effective, high quality presentation to communicate design ideas

### How do you get a course endorsement?

Course endorsements are now available at achieved as well as merit and excellence. If your tamaiti wants to get a merit or excellence endorsement for an individual subject, they need to achieve at least **14 or more merit or excellence credits** in that subject in a single year.

For example, if they're aiming to get NCEA Level 2 English with excellence, they must get enough English standards at excellence level to add up to 14 credits or more. At least three of these credits need to be from externally assessed standards\*, plus at least three credits from internally assessed standards\*\*.

### How do you get an NCEA certificate endorsement?

If your tamaiti wants to get a merit or excellence grade for an NCEA certificate, they'll need **50 credits** or more at merit or excellence in one NCEA level.

For example, if they're aiming to get an NCEA Level 2 certificate with excellence, they need enough Level 2 standards at excellence level to add up to 50 credits or more.

*NCEA work is assessed externally or internally.*

*\* When work is externally assessed, your tamaiti will usually submit a portfolio of their work or sit a national exam at the end of the year, which is set and marked by NZQA.*

*\*\* When work is internally assessed, your tamaiti will usually do essays, experiments or tests throughout the year, which are marked by the kura.*

# Te whakauru whare wānanga

## University Entrance (UE)

To enter a New Zealand university, ākonga usually need at least University Entrance (UE), made up of:

- NCEA Level 3
- Have 14 credits in three approved subjects  
*Check with your kura what subjects are approved or go to the NZQA website*
- Have Literacy and Numeracy credits  
*10 Literacy credits at Level 2 or above (5 credits in reading and 5 in writing) and 10 approved Numeracy credits at Level 1 or above*

### Rank scores

Some universities offer guaranteed entry if ākonga reach their guaranteed entry rank score (unless there are also other entry requirements).

An ākonga's rank score summarises their best NCEA results into points and:

- is based on their University Entrance-approved subjects
- is calculated on their best NCEA Level 3 credits
- allocates higher points for excellence and merit grades.

Qualifications may have different minimum rank scores for enrolment. For example:

- a Bachelor of Arts might have a minimum rank score of 150 points
- a Bachelor of Commerce might have a minimum rank score of 210 points.

### Other requirements for entering university

Depending on the course your tamaiti wants to enrol in, and who provides it, they may also need to:

- pass particular NCEA subjects or achievement standards
- attend an interview or audition
- provide a portfolio
- have relevant voluntary or paid work experience
- pass police checks
- provide references.



# Pūrau STEM

STEM stands for:

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering, and
- Maths

## Why is STEM important?

To ensure your tamaiti has the widest range of possible careers, it is important to take some STEM subjects right from the start of NCEA.

Almost all jobs in the future will require some STEM knowledge and STEM occupations are growing at a faster rate than other fields. This means there will be more employment opportunities and STEM degree holders typically earn more too (even in non-STEM careers!)

Also, STEM fields need diversity and are desperate for Māori perspectives and innovations that can help benefit our communities.

## STEM Career examples

### SCIENCE

Astronomer  
Marine Biologist  
Veterinarian

### TECHNOLOGY

Mobile App Developer  
Social Media Manager  
Web Designer

### ENGINEERING

Robotics Engineer  
Smart Cities Engineer  
Sports Engineer

### MATHS

Computer Programmer  
Financial Planner  
Investment Analyst

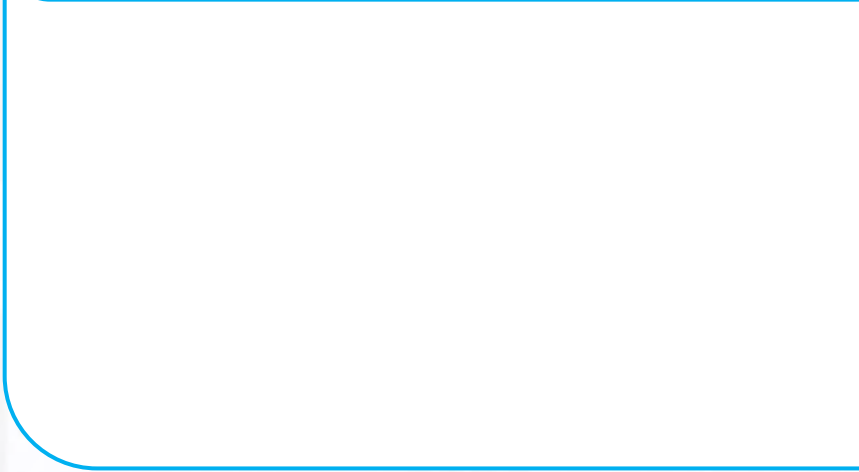
For more information about careers and study options, visit [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

# TOOL – Helping your tamaiti to GROW

Work through these questions with your tamaiti and together you can plan their journey

## GOALS

What do you want to achieve?



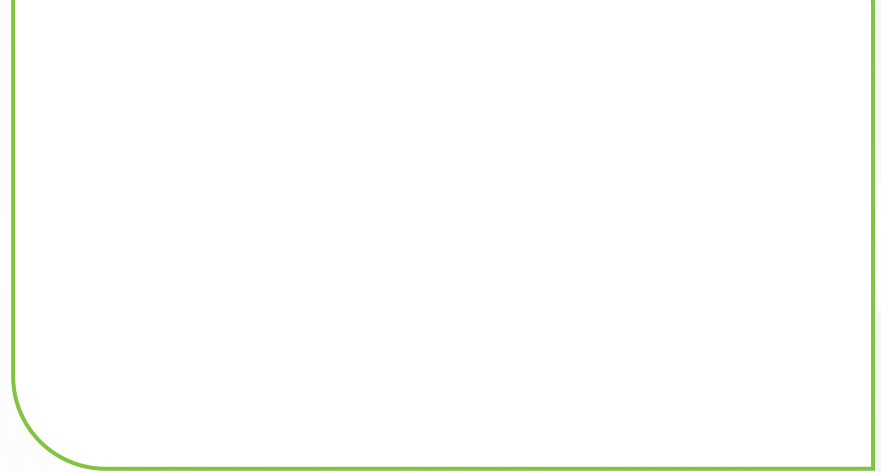
## REALITY

What are you good at and what do you enjoy?  
What areas do you want to improve?



## OPTIONS

Who can support you to achieve your goals?



## WAY FORWARD

What actions will you take?  
When will you do this by?



# Kōwhiria ō kaupapa ako NCEA

## Choosing your NCEA subjects

Choosing NCEA subjects is both exciting and difficult. Subjects should match your tamaiti's interests and abilities. There are many things to consider, such as which subjects are needed to get into:

- tertiary courses
- training or apprenticeships
- the next NCEA level and University Entrance.

Here are some tips on how to talk subjects with your tamaiti.

### Pick the right moment to talk

The best time to talk about subject choice is when you're both in a good mood and ready to talk. A good opener could be "Tell me about what you'd like to choose for NCEA next year."

Give positive feedback on their ideas. Ask why they're thinking of particular subjects so you can understand the reasons behind their choices.

### Pātai to ask about subject choices

Asking questions is always better than giving too many opinions.

Questions to ask:

- "What NCEA subjects do you like doing? Why?"
- "What's your dream job? What subjects would you need to do that?"
- "What subjects are you good at?"
- "What jobs do you think are in demand in NZ? What subjects would you need to get into those jobs?"
- "What are you thinking about doing when you leave kura? What subjects do you need for that course or that job or that apprenticeship?"
- "What subjects do you need for University Entrance?"
- "What subjects do you need to do to continue into NCEA 2 or NCEA 3?"
- "What subjects do you need to do, but you struggle to do? Do you need help with that subject?"





## Some common NCEA subject situations, with responses

1. They haven't decided what to do when they leave kura, so are struggling to choose subjects

*"It's OK that you haven't decided what to do after kura yet. However, it's a good idea to do maths, English and a science subject to give you more options later. These subjects are needed in many jobs that are in demand. It's also a good idea to take subjects you like and are good at. They may give you a clue as to what to do when you leave kura."*

2. They're choosing the same subjects as their friends

*"It's good to be in classes with your friends as long as you can still work toward your future goals. To do that you'll need to make sure your subjects are needed for the job you want."*

3. They don't understand some of the NCEA subjects

*"Let's talk to the kura about those subjects."*

4. They've chosen a subject they're not good at

*"I see you chose that subject and I know it was hard for you last year. What help do you think you'll need to make sure you do OK this time?"*

5. They've chosen the wrong subjects for the job, study or training they want

*"Those look like interesting subjects but you've told me you'd like to do [this] when you leave kura and these subjects won't help you get into that job, study or training. What are your thoughts about that?"*

6. They're bored with kura and they don't care

*"Did you know that your kura has STAR and Gateway programmes? This means you can do some of your subjects outside of kura at a Trades Academy or through work experience. Shall we talk about this with the career adviser at kura?"*

7. They're overwhelmed

*"There's a lot of choice but don't worry too much. Let's start with what you're interested in and like doing. If you don't do a certain subject this year, you might be able to do it next year. It's OK to change your mind and try things you're interested in outside of kura. There is always time to change."*

Reassure your tamaiti that if they don't like a subject, they may be able to change to a different one in the first two weeks of the school year.



# Pārahara mā ō kaupapa ako

## TOOL - Choosing Your Subjects

Have your tamaiti use this tool to help them choose the right NCEA subjects for them

### Step 1:

Work out what subjects you enjoy

Subjects I like doing now

.....  
Subjects I'm interested in doing next year that I haven't already studied

.....  
Subjects that include activities I like doing outside of kura (eg, playing music, helping people, thinking creatively)

### Step 2:

Work out what subjects you are good at

Subjects I am strongest in

.....  
Subjects others say I'm good at

### Step 3:

Find out what subjects you need for your career ideas

Career ideas

Subjects I need

### NCEA subject checklist

Have you:

- checked you have the right subjects for the next NCEA level?
- checked you have the right subjects for tertiary study if you plan to go to university and they are approved for UE?
- checked your subjects could help you get a Vocational Pathway Award if you want to do an apprenticeship or have a trades career?
- talked over your subject choices with your parents and whānau?
- talked to your teachers, dean or school career advisors?

# Mahi Tahī

## Working together

### How do I know my tamaiti is on track to get NCEA?

All kura track student progress to ensure they achieve the right credits for each NCEA level. In most cases, parents/caregivers should be able to log into a kura portal that tracks your tamaiti's credits as they achieve them.

Contact your kura to see what system they use and how you can log in to access your tamaiti's results.

### When are their assessments?

NCEA is achieved through internal assessments (essays, experiments, tests in class) and external assessments (exams and portfolios).

Ask your kura for a copy of the internal assessment timetable for each of the subjects your tamaiti is taking. Knowing when their assessments are will give you an opportunity to provide extra support, like listening to their speech or checking how their assignment is going.

Exams take place during November and December each year. Knowing when your tamaiti's exams are will help you support them through what can be a stressful time. To access the exam timetable, visit the NZQA website.

### Has your tamaiti considered the New Zealand Scholarship?

If your tamaiti is great at one subject (or more) they can enter to sit a New Zealand Scholarship exam for free. Scholarship exams are available in many subjects - including chemistry, Te Reo Māori, visual arts and technology - and the top performing students receive at least \$500. Have your tamaiti talk to their teacher if they would like to find out more.

**It is important that you continue to work alongside your tamaiti and keep connected with your kura**



### Talking with your tamaiti

Check in with your tamaiti by asking:

- Do you know how you are progressing?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you know what assessments you need to complete?
- Is there anything we can do to help?

### Meeting with kaiako

The following pātai may support you to have whānau-led conversations with kaiako:

- What can I do to support my tamaiti?
- Who should we go to if things aren't working?
- Is my tamaiti choosing the right subjects to achieve their aspirations?
- How is my tamaiti progressing and are there any concerns? How can I monitor their results?
- Can I have a copy of the internal assessment timetables?
- What careers or pathways help is available at our kura?

Your tamaiti can also talk to their kaiako and ask:

- How can I find out how many standards and credits I currently have?
- Am I on track to get NCEA?
- How can you help me gain merits and excellences?
- What do I need to focus on to make sure I am prepared for my exams?

## Actions

Our whānau will support by...

## Outcome

What does our tamaiti want to achieve?

## Who?

Our whānau will reach out to...

## When?

Key times we will support our tamaiti are...

# Kēmu patapatai

## Quiz

### What did you take away from this resource?

What acronym is recommended to help your tamaiti?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many credits does your tamaiti need to pass each level?

\_\_\_\_\_

What two 'co-requisite requirement subjects' does your tamaiti need to obtain?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many credits does your tamaiti need to get a certificate endorsement?

\_\_\_\_\_

What does STEM stand for?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is someone you can go to for help with your tamaiti's journey through NCEA

\_\_\_\_\_

**Don't know the answer? Re-read the booklet for additional help!**

# Rauemi tautoko

## Helpful resources

### Co-requisite subjects



### About NCEA



### Vocational pathways



### Help for choosing NCEA subjects



# Whakahoki kōrero

## Feedback

### Providing feedback



We'd love to hear how you found the workshop.

To complete our short feedback form all you need to do is:

- open the camera on your phone
- scan the QR code, and
- click the link that automatically pops up.



### NCEA me te Whānau workshops

Workshops can be hosted by kura, iwi, community groups, churches or anyone who is interested in helping whānau support their tamariki.

If you would like to book a free workshop, email us at [nceametewhanau@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:nceametewhanau@nzqa.govt.nz) or call us on 0800 697 296.

To find out more about our NCEA me te Whānau programme, scan the code.



**"Whaowhia te kete mātauranga"**

*"Fill the basket of knowledge"*

**"Whāia te mātauranga  
hei oranga mō koutou"**

*"Seek after learning for the sake of your wellbeing"*



## Ngā paetukutuku āwhina Useful websites

NZQA

[www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)

0800 697 296



Careers NZ

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

0800 601 301



Study It

[www.studyit.govt.nz](http://www.studyit.govt.nz)



NCEA Education

[www.ncea.education.govt.nz](http://www.ncea.education.govt.nz)



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