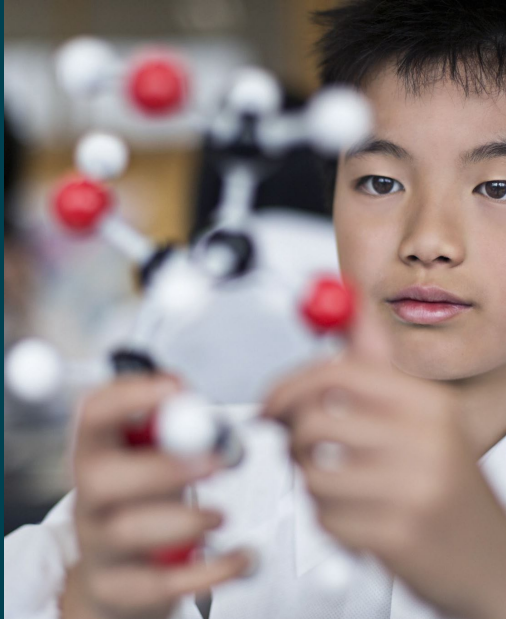


Myth 10

Courses and programmes

FACT 1



Courses

Are made up of standards the school chooses.

They can include achievement or unit standards from a mix of NCEA levels, subjects and assessing providers.

PTO for more facts and myths

Facts

Courses:

- should have an outline that specifies the learning and assessment available, preferably in a consistent format across all courses
- should offer a coherent, meaningful package of learning and assessment that supports students' qualifications, goals and pathways
- can be full year, semester, or part-year
- may be designed to meet the needs of a student in an Individual Education Plan
- can include off-site practical or workplace assessment provided the standard's Consent and Moderation Requirements are met
- do not need to offer an opportunity for course endorsement.

Myths

- Students must take a course for a full academic year.
- Standards assessed in a course must come from a single NCEA level and subject area.
- Every student in a course must complete the same assessments.

More points about courses

Students transferring from one school to another during an academic year shouldn't be disadvantaged when it comes to course endorsement. Wherever possible, the new school should set up student courses to accommodate the standards they achieved at the previous school.

As a student's NZQA achievement record reads: 'Course name' endorsed with 'grade'. Schools should consider course names carefully so they are clear, meaningful and don't include proprietary or sponsorship names.

Facts

Course endorsement recognises the range and depth of understanding, skill and experience a student has achieved in a course within a single year, and:

- can be achieved independently of achieving an NCEA qualification
- does not indicate that a course counts as a University Entrance approved subject. UE-approved subjects are determined by NZQA and universities and can be found on our website.

NZQA awards a course endorsement:

- at the NCEA level of the lowest-level standard that contributed to the endorsement, at Achieved, Merit or Excellence
- where students achieve 14 or more credits at Achieved or Merit or Excellence within a single year, with a minimum of 3 externally assessed credits, and 3 internally assessed credits
- courses exempted from the external assessment requirement include those comprised solely of standards from:
 - Level 2 Psychology
 - Level 2 and 3 Physical Education
 - Level 2 and 3 Religious Studies
 - Level 3 Visual Art.

Myths

- A course must provide the opportunity for endorsement.
- Schools can group standards that have already been assessed into a course to allow a student to gain an endorsement.
- Course endorsements can include standards achieved over multiple years.
- Students who change schools can't get course endorsements.

More points about programmes

The Consent to Assess guidelines require schools to design and develop teaching and learning programmes that meet New Zealand Curriculum, Workforce Development Council and other standard-setting body requirements, and:

- are based on the needs of learners and don't present unreasonable barriers to learning
- specify the learning outcomes and expected standards of achievement
- Have learning outcomes that are achievable within the programme's time frame
- have appropriate content and teaching and learning strategies, resource requirements and assessments
- address equity issues
- integrate any off-site practical or workplace components.