

NCEA Level 1 at

Mairehau High School



Where do I start?

The first priority for our year 11 students is that they select a programme made of subjects that best suit their learning needs and their educational and vocational goals. Deans, teachers, Learning Team Leaders and the careers advisor help students to do this.

By year 11 students should be beginning to set their own goals for their achievement in and beyond schooling. Regardless of what course of study or occupation students wish to pursue after MHS, they should first aim to gain their Level 1 Certificate. This means they must aim to get:

- A total of at least 80 credits
- At least 10 credits from specific literacy standards
- At least 10 credits from specific numeracy standards

Students may do this over the course of a year or they may take more than a year. All of our senior subjects offer credits towards NCEA Level 1, so students have plenty of opportunities to enter standards. Teachers will enter students into a standard if they are confident that the student:

- Has had sufficient learning opportunities to be prepared for the standard
- Has already demonstrated at least some of the skills required to be able to successfully complete the standard

This means, for example, some students may be entered into a total of over 80 credits, whereas some other students may be entered into a total of 40 credits. NCEA allows students to learn and achieve at their own pace. If a student is not entered into at least 80 credits, they will not be able to complete their certificate in this academic year. The credits they earn, however, will be carried over into the next year so they can continue to work towards achieving their certificate. If a student is entered in 80 or more credits and has paid their NCEA fees, they will receive a 'record of achievement' from NZQA, stating how many credits they actually earned. (Entering 80 is not the same as passing 80!)



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How do I get my Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy?

Teachers and deans work hard to ensure all students' programmes mean they have the opportunity to gain the 10 literacy credits and 10 numeracy credits that they require to gain their Level 1 Certificate.

There are two ways a student can gain their literacy and numeracy credits:

Through Achievement Standards

Whilst English and Maths are the two subjects with the most, many other courses also offer achievement standards which count for literacy and numeracy. When a student enters and achieves (getting A, M or E) an Achievement Standard that counts as a literacy or numeracy Achievement Standard, KAMAR (our school student data management system) adds the number of credits to the student's tally of Level 1 Literacy or Numeracy credits.

Through Unit Standards

For students who are not going to meet their literacy or numeracy requirements through passing specific literacy and numeracy Achievement Standards, there is another pathway available. There are three Literacy Unit Standards and three Numeracy Unit standards, totalling the required 10 credits each. English 103 and Maths 103 are specifically designed to help students work towards these standards, but students' work from all courses can be used as evidence to show students have met the requirements.

Students should talk with their teachers, year-level dean and the Academic Dean about which pathway they should take. For many students, they will aim to meet these requirements through Achievement Standards, whilst also gathering evidence for the Unit Standards.



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What is multi-level study?

Like some other schools, we offer flexible and personalised study options for our students. One of the ways we do this is through multi-level study, allowing students to study a mix of standards at different levels, depending on their ability. For example, in year 12, a student may study most subjects at level 2, but add a new subject at level 1 and another advanced subject at level 3. In addition, students may study multi-level courses with standards assessed at more than one level, e.g. an English course at year 11 may contain both level 1 and level 2 standards. This means that if a student completes their study towards their Level 1 Certificate in June, for example, they can immediately begin to earn level 2 credits towards their Level 2 Certificate, rather than wait to enter a new programme in the following year.

How does MHS help me to know what progress I have made?

There are many ways we support students to manage their learning and NCEA achievement. These include:

- **Course programmes**, outlining the standards available at the start of the year
- **Tracking sheets** – most teachers give students tracking sheets so students can record their results and progress, as they go
- **Credit Cards** – senior students receive regular NCEA progress updates in the form of ‘credit cards’ showing how many credits they have towards their literacy and numeracy requirements, as well as how many they have overall towards their certificate.
- **Dean support** – year-level deans are always available to conference students about their goals and progress.
- **NZQA** – once paid, students will be issued with an NZQA number and password which enables them to log on to the NZQA website and monitor their own progress.



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In summary:

All Year 11 students need to work towards NCEA Level One.

This means they need to earn

- ✓ 80 or more credits at Level 1
- ✓ 10 or more literacy credits to meet the Level 1 literacy requirements.
- ✓ 10 or more numeracy credits to meet the Level 1 numeracy requirements.

For some students this will happen in one school-year. For some students this will take two or more years.

Students (with the support of caregivers) can improve their achievement progress by

- ✓ Working with teachers and deans to choose sensible programmes and to set goals
- ✓ Attending all of their lessons
- ✓ Being organized
- ✓ Monitoring their own progress towards their goals
- ✓ Being focused on their learning, in class
- ✓ Studying, revising their learning, in their own time.

Students and caregivers can get help in achieving and tracking their NCEA Level 1 through

- Their teachers
- Their Year-Level Dean
- The Academic Dean

