



Morrinsville College

Year 11 Course Booklet 2026

- What is NCEA?
- Compulsory subjects.
- What subjects are available next year?



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NCEA- What is it and how does it work?

How NCEA works

NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) is the main secondary school qualification in New Zealand.

Usually you study for:

- NCEA Level 1 in Year 11
- NCEA Level 2 in Year 12
- NCEA Level 3 in Year 13

However, sometimes students will complete these different Levels at different times. For example, some students may be finishing off Level 1 while being in Year 12 and some may be finishing Level 2 whilst in Year 13.

NCEA is recognised by employers and tertiary education providers in New Zealand and overseas.

NCEA is part of the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) which ranges from Level 1 to Level 10, and includes certificates, diplomas and degrees.

What does NCEA involve?

NCEA involves choosing subjects. Each subject will have some internal assessments and some external assessment. Some assessments require students to submit assignments which are completed over a period, while some require students to sit traditional exams and some require submitting portfolios or projects for both internal and external assessments.

How is NCEA work assessed?

NCEA work is assessed externally or internally.

- When your work is externally assessed, you usually sit a national exam at the end of the year, which is set and marked by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).
- When your work is internally assessed, you usually do essays, experiments or tests throughout the year, which are marked by your school.
- Internal assessment marking is also checked by independent moderators from NZQA to make sure all schools are assessing work to a national standard.



What are Achievement standards and Unit standards?

Standards are particular skills or knowledge within a subject. There are two types of standards in NCEA: Achievement standards and Unit standards.

In both core and option subjects you can gain Achievement standards.

- Achievement standards are graded using the 'NAME' system:
 - 'N' for Not Achieved
 - 'A' for Achieved
 - 'M' for achieved with Merit
 - 'E' for achieved with Excellence.

Vocational subjects, such as Hospitality or carpentry, as well as some option subjects, you gain unit standards.

- Unit standards are graded: You are either Competent or Not Yet Competent. and awarded a:
 - 'N' for 'Not Achieved'.
 - 'A' for 'Achieved'

What are credits?

Each standard is worth a certain number of credits (points). When you achieve a standard, you earn the amount of credits that standard is worth.

How many credits do you need for NCEA?

To gain NCEA Level 1 you need:

- 60 credits at any level (Level 1, 2 or 3)
- 10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits

(You may have already gained your Literacy and Numeracy credits in Year 10 through the CAA's)

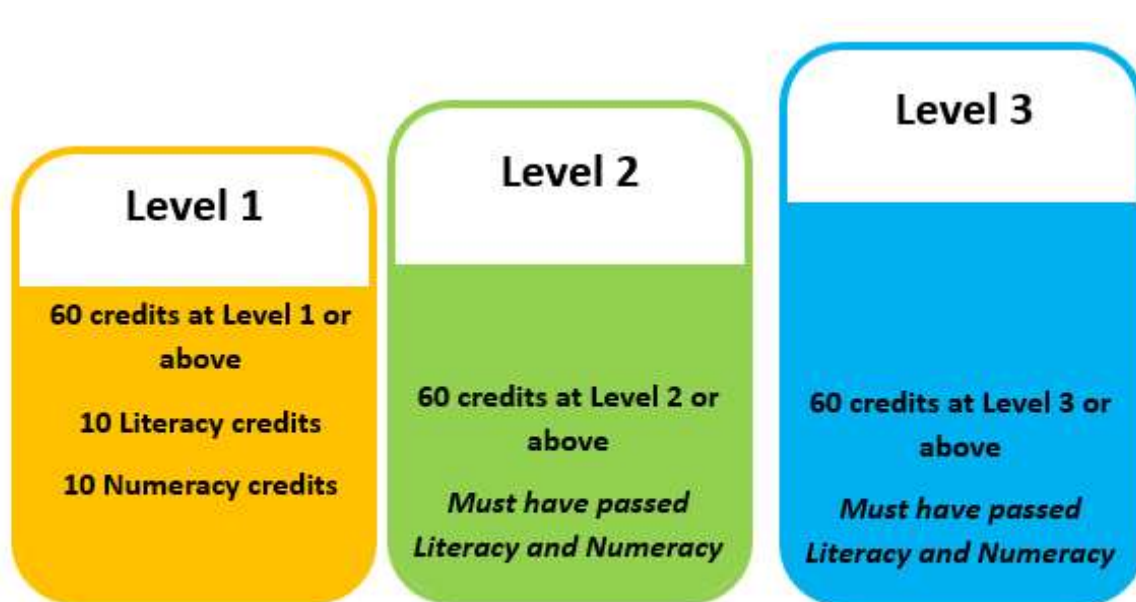
To gain NCEA Level 2 you need:

- a minimum of 60 credits at Level 2 or above; and
- have gained your 10 Literacy and 10 Numeracy credits

To gain NCEA Level 3 you need:

- a minimum of 60 credits at Level 3 or above; and
- have gained your 10 Literacy and 10 Numeracy credits





Note: Your Literacy and Numeracy credits DO NOT count towards your 60 credits. These are counted separately.

How many credits do you need for NCEA?

Literacy and Numeracy Credits

- Literacy and Numeracy credits are available through a common assessment task (CAA) or range of other subjects. CAA will be offered to Year 11 twice during the year.
- Literacy credits show that a learner can demonstrate Reading and Writing skills.
- Numeracy credits show that a learner can demonstrate knowledge on number, measurement, data, spatial properties, location, navigation and mathematical relationships.

Some of you would have gained your Literacy and Numeracy credits in Year 10. However, if you did not succeed in Year 10, you can still achieve your Literacy and Numeracy in Year 11.

How do I get Merit and Excellence grades and endorsements?

The criteria for Merit or Excellence grades vary depending on the subject. However, as a general guide:

- 'achieved' means that you demonstrated elementary level skills or knowledge.
- 'merit' means that you demonstrated intermediate level skills or knowledge.
- 'excellence' means that you demonstrated highly developed skills or knowledge.

Other things to aim for are subject and overall endorsements. These certificates of achievement show that you are working at those higher levels and can become more important as you work through NCEA and look at entering tertiary education.



Subject endorsement

If you want to get a Merit or Excellence subject endorsement, you need to achieve 14 or more Merit or Excellence credits in that subject in a single year.

For example, if you're aiming to get an endorsement in NCEA Level 1 English with Excellence you have to get enough English achievement standards at Excellence level to add up to 14 credits or more.

At least three of these credits need to be from externally assessed achievement standards, plus at least three credits from internally assessed achievement standards.

Overall Endorsements

For an overall endorsement students must gain 50 credits at either Merit or Excellence level. So, if a student has 50 Level 1 credits at Excellence, they may have their Level 1 certificate endorsed with Excellence. Likewise, if a student gains 50 credits at Merit (or Merit and Excellence) at Level 1 their NCEA Level 1 certificate may be endorsed with Merit.

Who to see for more information:

Year 11 Dean – Miss Kimberley Snowden. kimberley-snowden@morrroll.school.nz

Careers Adviser - Mrs Thomas. jane-thomas@morrroll.school.nz

NCEA Principal Nominee- Mr Prasad. nilesh-prasad@morrroll.school.nz





Subject Options

Students doing NCEA must consider their choice of subjects very carefully. They should consult with their parents/caregivers, Careers Adviser and Dean to decide which subjects to take and how these choices will progress to the next level at school or tertiary education. When picking your subjects you need to think about that rather than just picking your classes that your friends are in.

Core Subjects *(Compulsory subjects for all Year 11)*

- English – this is split into English and English Literacy
- Mathematics – this is split into Maths and Numeracy
- Science
- PE (one period a week)

Students need to pick any three optional classes which they will study for the whole year. It is important that students and their parents/caregivers are aware that some subjects have compulsory fees.

Optional Subjects

- Art
 - Design
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Music
 - Te Reo
 - Te Ao Māori
 - Te Ao Haka
 - Japanese
 - Sports Studies
 - Health Studies
 - Home Economics (food and nutrition)
 - Agriculture Science
 - Horticulture Science
 - Geography
 - History
 - Commerce
 - Digital Technologies Science
 - Electronics
 - Wood
 - Metal
 - Trades Academy
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Year 11 Subjects

Compulsory subjects



English (11ENG)

In this course, you will study the accurate use of the English language and English literature texts. This will include visual and written texts, the development of written, oral, and visual language skills, and an extension of understanding of themes in literature. The course will focus on teaching and learning these skills. There are four assessments. You will be offered a selection of these assessments.

English Literacy (11LIT)

In this course, you will study towards achieving the prerequisite CAAs for NCEA. This includes the accurate use of the English language in writing and reading and understanding a range of texts.

Mathematics (11MAT)

This course is designed to give students a broad knowledge of the mathematical skills used in many careers beyond school. It will cover all areas of the mathematics curriculum: number, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics and probability. Students will be taught to solve real world problems and how to give clear explanations and reasoning for their solutions. They will also explore and learn to interpret a variety of different types of data.

Mathematics (11NUM)

This course is designed to give students a grasp of the everyday mathematical skills used in many careers beyond school. It will cover most areas of the mathematics curriculum: number, geometry, measurement, and statistics. Students will be taught to solve real world problems, and they will explore and learn to interpret a variety of different types of data. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on preparing students for the requirements of the Numeracy CAA exam.

Science (11SCI)

The Science learning area has a range of subject strands which include Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space Science. Students will develop an understanding of the role science plays in the world around us. Science learning is theoretical and practical. Students will learn through observation, investigation and testing ideas to explain the world around us.

Physical Education (11PE)

Students will take one period of Physical Education each week. Students will experience a range of physical activity sessions throughout the year to improve their personal growth and development, interpersonal skills, decision making and examine factors influencing their participation.

Option Subjects

Visual Art (11ART)

The Art students will complete two internal standards and the external folio standard, based on the Curriculum Level 6 requirements. They will strengthen their recording skills and develop ideas using a range of media and techniques, including painting and mixed media work. The students will learn how to annotate and develop their work and clarify their visual ideas. The external folio, on an A1 board, is the major project for this course. They will see exhibitions during the year at the Wallace Gallery and exhibit their own work.

Please note a student cannot take both 11ART & 11DTD because these courses have the same achievement standards.

Design (11DTD)

This course offers students the ability to create artworks in the disciplines of photography, digital media, and illustration. The disciplines of drawing, photography and design are covered in some depth. Students will expand their photography skills and understanding of photographic composition and conventions. They will then combine these skills with either manual or computer aided drawing and design to produce a related series of work. This course focuses on creativity using a variety of different media that includes both practical and computer-generated applications of ideas and techniques. Students are given the opportunity to learn relevant and specific practices, processes, techniques, technologies and conventions through the development and refinement of artworks. This will help students to successfully identify and communicate meaning visually and create a cohesive thematic body of work.

Please note a student cannot take both 11DTD & 11ART because these courses have the same achievement standards.

Dance (11DAN)

Dance is a course for those people who love moving and working with others. The course covers all genres of dance, with an initial emphasis on ballet for technique. The course works on fitness and strength and safe dancing practice. Students explore their own choreography as well as work with outside choreographers. You will be part of the Arts Showcase as this is part of your assessment for the year. You don't need to have had any dance training to do the course, but you do need a willingness to learn and participate.

Drama (11DRM)

Drama is about exploring text, sub text, movement, emotion and relationships through the use of dramatic techniques. Dramatic theorists are also introduced in this course. World theatre, Theatre Aotearoa and different genres of theatre are part of the course. Working together as an ensemble is fundamental to Year 11 Drama. Year 11 students are part of our showcases and shows, either as crew or on stage. Drama is great for building self-confidence, but also for learning how to work as a team and develop empathy for others. You do not need to have done Junior Drama to do Level One Drama, but you do need to want to learn, perform and be part of a fantastic group of learners.



Music (11MUS)

This course is a mixture between our traditional performance Music Course and the Vocational Industry Course, which allows students to learn skills through a practical approach to music performance and production. Students will have an opportunity to perform, compose and study a wide range of music theory and music technology. This course is designed to lead students onto tertiary study, industry-based work or for the continued development and enjoyment of the discipline. **Special Requirements:** Students must be learning an instrument either through school or the community.



Te Reo (11TER)

Year 11 Te Reo will be taught at NCEA Level 1 at levels 5-6 of the curriculum. Student learning contexts will involve, Kura (School), Kāinga (Home), Kai (Food) and Te Ao Taiohi (Teenage World). Year 11 Te Reo will be used to set a base so students can move on to Te Reo NCEA Level 2 in Year 12.

Te Ao Māori (11TEA)

Year 11 Te Ao Māori is a course designed to teach students about different aspects of the Te Ao Māori (the Māori World), while assisting them in gaining their NCEA qualifications. Students will be working at Level 1 NCEA. All standards are Unit Standards that have been taken from a cross section of learning subjects.

Te Ao Haka (11TAH)

This course is for students passionate about kapa haka. It allows them to use their passion to work towards achieving NCEA Level 1. Students are required to do both practical and theoretical aspects.



Japanese (11JAP)

The aim of this course is to continue to develop the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening and to learn more of Japanese life and culture. There is a scholarship opportunity to go to Japan for a successful applicant. Topics: food, free time and leisure, school life, shopping, family and friends, hometown, and country.

Sports Studies (11SPS)

Students demonstrate how to use a range of movement skills and strategies in two activities and reflect on how places and spaces influence movement in the given activities. Using and describing strategies that promote Kotahitanga in movement, e.g., working effectively as a team. Understanding biophysical aspects, such as functional anatomy, biomechanics (study of movement), exercise physiology and nutrition related to human body movement.



Health Studies (11HLT)

Health Studies is about exploring health and well-being by developing personal and interpersonal capabilities that can enhance Hauora (physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing). Drawing conclusions about how wellbeing is affected by an activity in the short and long-term. Understanding factors relevant to a health-related situation that might influence a decision-making process.

Home Economics (11HEC)

Students study this subject in the context of a multicultural, changing, contemporary society. It explores the relationship between food, nutrition and health and offers the opportunity for creative, investigative, and analytical study. Students will experience a variety of practical cooking lessons designed to develop their skills and to reinforce their theoretical knowledge and understanding. A range of topics such as preparing food safely, food sustainability, food from other cultures, the under consumption of fruit and vegetables and the designing of food products are covered throughout the year.

Agricultural Science (11AGR)

This course provides students with an introduction to the New Zealand Agricultural industry. Students will study the principles of livestock management and pasture science. Students will also explore the reasons for, and locations of New Zealand's primary industries and the importance of environmentally sustainable farming practices.

Horticultural Science (11HRT)

This course provides students with an introduction to the New Zealand Horticultural industry. Students will study the principles of plant management and soil science. Students will also explore the reasons for, and locations of New Zealand's primary industries and practical aspects of the industry.



Geography (11GEO)

Geography is the study of people and places. We ask the question “What is where, why is it there, and why care?”, so we can make sense of the world around us. ‘Place’ can involve both natural and cultural environments, for example rivers, mountains, buildings and infrastructure. Students learn to think spatially and to use maps, visual images, inquiry processes and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyse and present information. Students critically explore different national and global challenges, considering a range of perspectives, and presenting solutions. Geographers are investigators. They collect and interpret data to explore environments and change. They are future thinkers and problem solvers. Geographers are employable in a range of careers and studying the subject provides an excellent pathway to life beyond Morrinsville College.



History (11HIS)

Level 1 History explores major local and global events that have shaped New Zealanders' lives, with a focus on the theme of **Conflict**. From the classroom to the field, you'll examine how past events influence the present and help shape a better future. Develop critical skills like forming arguments, analysing different perspectives, and thinking deeply about cause and effect. This course helps you understand your place in the world, making connections between history, identity, and the future.

Commerce (11COM)

Commerce brings together the best of business, accounting, and economics, giving students the tools to understand how our world works – and how to make smart decisions within it. In this course, students won't just learn facts – they'll develop real-world skills for life: how to manage money, read and create budgets, and understand financial statements. They'll explore how supply and demand shapes the prices we pay and discover how businesses and organisations depend on each other to succeed. Through problem-solving and real-world examples, students will learn to analyse decisions and their impacts on people, companies, and communities. Whether they dream of running a business, working in finance, or simply being confident with money, Commerce gives them a head start. Assessment will focus on practical abilities like making sound financial decisions, setting prices, and explaining how different parts of the economy connect – skills they can use well beyond the classroom.

Digital Technology Science (11DTS)

Students will develop computational thinking skills and the ability to design and develop digital outcomes. They will also learn how computers represent and process data. They will also be able to use programming languages such as Python, C++, and C#. These skills will enable students to incorporate interface design to solve real-life problems, collaborate in small teams and produce products suitable for end-users. Another exciting area is where students will apply skills in creating websites using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. They will learn about the digital design and development processes used to create, test, and evaluate digital outcomes such as websites, movie trailers, games, and 3D Modelling designs. Generally, they will develop skills and understand how Digital Technologies outcomes impact on the people who use them.

Electronics (11DTE)

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach by combining Design and Visual Communication (DVC) and Electronics. In the DVC component, students collaborate on architectural and product design briefs, beginning with concept development in Minecraft Education. These initial ideas are refined through 2D and 3D freehand sketches using pencil, ink, and watercolour washes, and are then digitally modelled in SketchUp. The course places equal emphasis on functionality—understanding how systems and electronic components operate—and aesthetics, focusing on the visual appeal of designs. Students also research influential designers to inspire and inform their creative process. In the Electronics and SMART Technology component, students design and create a sustainable mock-up lamp and implement the Internet of Things (IoT) solutions for innovative products and building lighting, integrating modern technology into practical, real-world applications.

Wood (11DTW)



Materials Technology Wood is a practical course and explores two learning contexts: the design and manufacture of products. There is also the flexibility to incorporate additional materials from outside the designated contexts. Students examine social and cultural values of materials and associated technologies. The practical project/s at Level 1 are designing and creating a bedside cupboard and learning the skills of wood bending.

Metal (11DTM)

Materials Technology Metal is a practical course and explores two learning contexts: the design and manufacture of products as the major focus. There is also the flexibility to incorporate additional materials from outside the designated contexts. Students examine social and cultural values of materials and associated technologies. The practical project/s at Level 1 are designing and creating a rocket stove and developing skills on the lathe.



Waikato Trades Academy (WTA)

The Waikato Trades Academy is a secondary-tertiary partnership programme where students are enrolled in two institutions – WINTEC and Morrinsville College. Students on WTA attend WINTEC for one day a week throughout the year, and complete NCEA and gain trades training credits. WTA is a two-year project-based programme – the first year is generic, the second year is specialised. There are two programmes being offered 1. Construction and Infrastructure (Building) 2. Manufacturing and Technology (Automotive Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering) ***Indicate your interest on the Subject Choice form as your number 1. There are limited places available at Level One – students will need to apply to Mrs Thomas in order to be selected.***