

5 Te whai māramatanga Understanding NCEA

Session plan

Key messages

- I understand what NCEA is and how I can get the most from it for my future.
- I understand how NCEA connects to my interests now and my future career pathways.

Session sequence

1. Tell rangatahi that in the times of their tūpuna they might have had only one type of career. Today we may do lots of jobs during our lives. With NCEA they can achieve credits to show their skills and knowledge in certain areas. It is a tool to help them get into the career pathways they are passionate about.
2. Recap the importance of information to help with career choices. Tell rangatahi that in this session they will learn lots of useful information about NCEA and can ask anything about it. Ask them to show how much they know about NCEA already, by a show of fingers: 1 = knows nothing, up to 10 = knows everything.
3. Ask rangatahi what questions they have about NCEA and write them up on the board.
4. Introduce the [How NCEA Works video](#). They may want to write down any questions.
5. Once the video has finished, continue with the presentation about NCEA using the NCEA discussion notes resource below. Discuss questions as you go.
6. Tell rangatahi they are going to have a quick quiz about NCEA. Put rangatahi into groups and ask the questions and receive the answers.
7. Ask rangatahi if they think they know more about NCEA now than they did before. Discuss where they can get more information. Ask rangatahi to complete section three Te hoe of their Te haerenga hou career planner.

Key career competencies

Demonstrate understanding of learning pathways and skills in choosing school subjects.

Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between educational achievement and career planning.

Key questions

What is NCEA?

Where does it fit on your Te haerenga hou career planner?

What makes it difficult to achieve NCEA credits?

Who can help you to find out about NCEA?

Supporting resources

Kaiārahi PowerPoint 5

Kaiārahi resource:
NCEA discussion notes

Kaiārahi resource:
NCEA quick quiz

Rangatahi activity:
Te haerenga hou career
planner (Session 1)

Duration

30-40 minutes

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Kaiārahi resource: NCEA discussion notes

The information below is to initiate discussion about NCEA. You can include other information from your school.

What is NCEA?

Ask rangatahi to show where on the NCEA stairway of knowledge they would be from 1 to 10.

How NCEA works

Ask rangatahi to note down their questions and see if they can hear any of the answers in this six-minute video [How NCEA works](#).

- What do you know about NCEA?
- What questions do you have about NCEA?

This video is 6.05 minutes long. It gives a general overview of NCEA. Encourage rangatahi to watch with their questions in mind and note any answers.

What you need to get NCEA

Recap the NCEA information from the video. Which of their questions were answered and what other questions do they have?

Reinforce the importance of choosing subjects they enjoy and that will help them with what they want to do when they leave school. Here is some more information about NCEA.

- Credits are gained when rangatahi show they have learned specific skills or knowledge in each subject, these are called standards.
- Each standard is worth credits. Rangatahi have to show they can do particular things to achieve a standard and gain credits.
- Some of these standards rangatahi may do during the year in class (internal assessment). For some of them they may have to sit an exam at the end of the year (external assessment).
- The credits for each subject are added to their total credits for the year. There are 3 levels of NCEA certificates, depending on the difficulty of the standards achieved.
- They need 60 credits to achieve an NCEA certificate at each level, plus 10 literacy or te reo matatini credits and 10 numeracy or te pāngarau credits overall.
- They only need to meet the 20-credit literacy and numeracy te reo matatini and te pāngarau requirement once. After the requirement is met, it counts for every level of NCEA.
- They can earn the credits needed for each level of NCEA over more than one year.

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Kaiārahi resource: NCEA discussion notes (continued)

Credits that fit your pathway

Rangatahi collect credits through learning about different things in each subject, these are called standards. There are two types of standards: unit standards and achievement standards.

Rangatahi can get any NCEA level by gaining 60 credits in a combination of unit standards and achievement standards.

1. Achievement standards are gained from studying New Zealand Curriculum subjects. Depending on how well they do, rangatahi get a grade of not achieved, achieved, merit or excellence.
2. If someone knows what they want to do when they leave school, they can get credits towards a qualification while they are still at school. These are called unit standards. Rangatahi can achieve unit standards by studying vocational subject areas (like hairdressing or tourism) as well as New Zealand Curriculum subjects. Students only get achieved or not achieved grades for unit standards.

NCEA grades

There are four grades for achievement standards in NCEA. Rangatahi get the same number of credits whether they get achieved, merit or excellence for a standard.

- Not achieved means you did not gain the credits needed to achieve the standard.
- Achieved means that you achieved the standard.
- Merit means that you achieved the standard very well.
- Excellence means you did an excellent job of achieving the standard.

Rangatahi can achieve NCEA certificate endorsements and course endorsements when they gain merits and excellences. They need to get excellence for 50 credits to get a certificate endorsement.

A certificate endorsement shows they did well over a few subjects and course endorsements show they did well in particular subjects. These endorsements show prospective employers and tertiary providers that rangatahi have particular strengths and this can help with job or study applications. Rangatahi must get excellence for 14 credits in one subject to get a subject endorsement. At least three of these credits must be externally assessed.

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Kaiārahi resource: NCEA discussion notes (continued)

Achieving NCEA

When rangatahi study towards a standard the teacher tells them what they are learning to do and how they can show what they have learned to achieve the standard and gain credits. Achieving a standard means doing what is required to show they have that skill or knowledge.

Striving in NCEA

Achieving merits and excellences is a step up from this and shows the depth of what they know and how they can apply it.

The images of the pōhutukawa illustrate the difference between what students might be expected to do to gain an achieved, merit and excellence grade.

Discuss the four images with the rangatahi.

- What are the differences you can see between each tree?
- What would it take for you to achieve merit and excellence?
- What would make it difficult? Who can help?

Benefits of NCEA

Discuss the following with rangatahi:

- What impact can NCEA have on your career journey?
- What subjects do you think you may want to find out more about?
- Who can support you with your NCEA journey at school? At home?