NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement)

The Basics

Standards, Assessments and Credits

Standards. In NCEA students set out to prove they have reached certain standards. Each standard is given a title and a number, e.g. "Explain why selected objects may be considered as Art – AS91020"

Assessments. To show you have met each standard you have to do an assessment. Assessments might be speeches, presentations, written tests, performances, portfolios of drawings, essays, research folders etc.

Credits. Every time that you successfully complete an assessment, and meet the standard, you gain Credits. The number of credits varies from standard to standard, usually between 2 and 6.

Gaining Level 1 NCEA

To gain Level 1 NCEA you need to collect **80** credits at level 1 (or above). Of those 80 credits **10** must be **numeracy** credits and **10 literacy** credits. You can only really get numeracy credits in maths, although a few are available in other subjects e.g. Geography. Literacy credits can be gained in English, but also in quite a wide range of other subjects. (It is still important though that you do everything you can to 'pass' English and Maths as subjects, this means getting at least 14 credits in each).

Types of Standards

There are two types of standards, *Achievement Standards (AS)* and *Unit Standards (US)*. We only offer a few Unit Standards at WSC and there is little difference now between *AS* and *US*, although some *Unit Standards* do not have Merit and Excellence opportunities.

Some standards are *Internals*, assessed by your teachers at school during the year. Often, but not always, you get a chance to resubmit an internal assessment to try and improve your grade. Other standards are called *externals*. Externals are assessed at the end of the year by national markers, not by your teachers. You do not get a chance to resubmit externals. Externals may take the form of a timed exam, they may also be a portfolio of work (e.g. graphics work) that you work at over the year but which are sent away for marking.

Endorsements

Endorsement Certificates. If you gain **50** or more credits at Excellence, you will receive an Excellence Endorsement on your NCEA certificate. If you gain **50** credits at Merit (or a mixture of Merit and Excellence) you will receive a Merit Endorsement on your NCEA certificate.

Course Endorsements. If in any of the courses you take next year (e.g. maths, science, PE, history etc.) you get **14** credits at Excellence you will receive an Excellence Endorsement for that course (as long as at least **3** of the credit come form an external and **3** come from an internal). In a similar way you can also receive a merit Endorsement for each course you do. **This means that every credit counts!**

Level 2 and Level 3 and UE (University Entrance)

You need **80** credits to gain Level 2 NCEA. At least **60** of those must be Level 2 credits, but **20** can be Level 1 credits that you already used to gain Level 1.

You need **80** credits to gain Level 3 NCEA. At least **60** of those must be Level 3 credits, but **20** can be Level 2 credits that you already used to gain Level 2.

UE (University Entrance), the minimum qualifications that you need to move on to university, is very similar to gaining Level 3 NCEA, but with extra literacy requirements. Also 14 of your Level 3 credits will need to come from one single University Approved Subject, 14 form another and 14 from third.