



Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

NCEA co-requisite

Foundational skills – te reo matatini, pāngarau,
literacy, and numeracy

Summary list – approved standards in 2024-2027 Questions and answers

Full list: ncea.education.govt.nz/standards-approved-ncea-co-requisite-during-transition-period-2024-2027

NCEA co-requisite – te reo matatini, pāngarau, literacy, and numeracy

Standards approved for use in transitional period - 2024-2027

Ensuring learners with an NCEA qualification have the foundational skills they need for further education, employment, and training is a key component of NCEA Change.

In 2020, Cabinet agreed to strengthen the NCEA requirements for te reo matatini and literacy, and pāngarau and numeracy. This included formally separating the requirements into a 20-credit co-requisite. We have developed and piloted five dedicated standards to assess the NCEA co-requisite using Common Assessment Activities and Kete Manarua.

From 2024, achievement of the NCEA co-requisite becomes mandatory for the awarding of an NCEA qualification at any level. As of 2023, assessment using these dedicated standards is the recommended approach for learners who have the appropriate level of te reo matatini or literacy, and pāngarau or numeracy. While the five co-requisite standards will not be mandatory until 2028, we anticipate most schools and kura to be using them from next year.

Everyone is encouraged to get familiar with a schoolwide approach for the new forms of assessment, and what learners are being prepared for. Teaching and learning of foundational te reo matatini, pāngarau, literacy and numeracy skills should occur across the curriculum.

Co-requisite standards – recommended assessment option from 2023 onwards

- *US32403: Read written texts to understand ideas and information (Literacy Reading)*
- *US32405: Write texts to communicate ideas and information (Literacy Writing)*
- *US32406: Use mathematics and statistics to meet the numeracy demands of a range of situations (Numeracy)*
- *US32412: Te whakamahi pāngarau me te tauanga hei whakatutuki i ngā hiahia pāngarau o ngā pūāhua whai ta ke (Pāngarau)*
- *US32413: Ka mārama, ka tautohu i ngā whakaaro matua o tētahi reo ā-waha, o tētahi reo ā-tā hoki (Pānui & Whakarongo)*
- *US32415: Ka whakamahi i te reo kia tutuki ai tētahi pūtakenga whakawhiti kōrero, tuhituhi hoki (Tuhituhi & Kōrero)*

Additional assessment standards available to all learners – Literacy, Te Reo Matatini, Numeracy, and Pāngarau

WĀHANGA AKO OR LEARNING AREA	TE REO MATATINI	LITERACY	PĀNGARAU OR NUMERACY
Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Rangatira (1.1 to 1.4; 2.1 to 2.12; 3.1 to 3.9)		
Learning Languages ¹	Te Reo Māori (1.1 to 1.4; 2.1 to 2.5; 3.1 to 3.5)	Te Reo Māori (1.1 to 1.4; 2.1 to 2.5; 3.1 to 3.5)	
English		English (1.1 to 1.4; 2.1 to 2.10; 3.1 to 3.9)	
Tikanga-ā-lwi	Tikanga-ā-lwi (1.1 to 1.4)		
Social Sciences		Commerce (1.3, 1.4) Geography (1.1, 1.3, 1.4) History (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) Religious Studies (1.1 to 1.4) Social Studies (1.1, 1.3, 1.4)	Commerce (1.1) Geography (1.2)
Pūtaiao	Pūtaiao (1.1 to 1.4)		
Science		Agricultural and Horticultural Science (1.1) Chemistry and Biology (1.3) Science (1.1, 1.4)	Physics, Earth, and Space Science (1.4)
Pāngarau			Pāngarau (1.1 to 1.4; 2.15, 2.16)
Mathematics and Statistics			Mathematics and Statistics (1.1 to 1.4; 2.1 to 2.14; 3.1 to 3.15)

Additional assessment standards with usage restrictions – Literacy, Numeracy, and Pāngarau (see footnotes for eligibility criteria for using these standards)

LEARNING AREA OR DOMAIN	TE REO MATATINI	LITERACY	NUMERACY OR PĀNGARAU
Learning Languages		New Zealand Sign Language ² (1.1 to 1.4)	
		Vagahau Niue ³ (1.1 to 1.4)	
		Gagana Tokelau ⁴ (1.1 to 1.4)	
		Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani ⁵ (1.1 to 1.4)	
English for Academic Purposes ⁶		US 30507, 30511	
Core Generic ⁷		US 26622, 26624, 26625	US 26623, 26626, 26627

^[1] Te Reo Māori achievement standards can be used towards either te reo matatini or literacy.

^[2] Only available to deaf and hard-of-hearing students and/or students whose first language is NZSL

^[3] Only available to students domiciled in Niue

^[4] Only available to students domiciled in Tokelau

^[5] Only available to students domiciled in the Cook Islands

^[6] Only available to students with current or recent eligibility for ESOL funding and international fee paying students

^[7] Only available for students to begin assessment while they are enrolled full-time with tertiary education organisations (TEOs) or students enrolled with alternative education providers, activity centres, specialist schools, teen-parent units, health schools, and youth justice facilities, or students domiciled in Niue, Tokelau, or the Cook Islands. The package of three standards must all be completed before the NCEA Co-requisite Literacy or Numeracy can be awarded.

Key terms

- ❑ **NCEA co-requisite** – the 20-credit requirement. Made up of 10 literacy or te reo matatini credits and 10 numeracy or pāngarau credits. From 2024, the 20-credit requirement is mandatory for the awarding of any level of NCEA
- ❑ **NCEA co-requisite standards** – the six new standards developed to assess the co-requisite: Literacy-Reading, Literacy-Writing, Numeracy, Te Reo Matatini, Pāngarau
- ❑ **Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)** – the assessment method for the co-requisite standards, in particular Literacy-Reading, Literacy-Writing, Numeracy
- ❑ **Kete Manarua** – the portfolio collection of evidence of learning in naturally occurring assessment settings for Te Reo Matatini and Pāngarau dedicated standards (in addition to the CAA option)
- ❑ **Additional assessment standards** – the list of unit and achievement standards that will be recognised towards the co-requisite during the transitional period of 2024-2027. These standards can be used in combination with or alongside the co-requisite standards (*see Questions and Answers for conditions*)
- ❑ **Transitional period** – the four-year timeframe (2024-2027) for schools, kura, and other NCEA providers to make the shift to using only the co-requisite standards. Additional assessment standards and assessment approaches are available for learners during this period.



Full list of standards and more information

ncea.education.govt.nz/standards-approved-ncea-co-requisite-during-transition-period-2024-2027

NCEA co-requisite transitional period

Questions and answers

What is the full list of standards that can be used in 2024 to 2027?

The full list contains a total of 136 approved standards available to all learners – including the five co-requisite standards. The list is available from ncea.education.govt.nz/standards-approved-ncea-co-requisite-during-transition-period-2024-2027. This list includes 24 standards with usage restrictions – they can only be used if eligibility criteria are met.

Why have a transitional period for the NCEA co-requisite?

To provide a bridge between current NCEA literacy and numeracy requirements and the future where only the new co-requisite standards will be available. Based on piloting in 2021 and 2022 we know some NCEA providers need more time, support, and guidance to be ready to use only the co-requisite standards, including time needed for targeted teaching and learning to support achievement. Curriculum-wide approaches to foundational te reo matatini, pāngarau, literacy and numeracy skills can be strengthened during the transitional period.

Will the co-requisite still become mandatory in 2024?

Yes, the 20-credit co-requisite will become mandatory for the awarding of any level of the NCEA qualification from 2024. The four-year transitional period from 2024 to the end of 2027 provides time for schools, kura, and other NCEA providers to fully adapt to the change.

How can learners achieve the co-requisite during the transitional period?

Learners can achieve the co-requisite using either the co-requisite standards, credits from the additional assessment standards, or a mixture of both. Whatever combination of standards they use, learners must achieve 10 te reo matatini or literacy-rich credits and 10 pāngarau or numeracy-rich credits.

Will the additional assessment standards be available in 2028 and beyond?

No. From 2028, only the co-requisite standards will be recognised towards the NCEA co-requisite. Prior attainment of the co-requisite, where a student is still working towards one or more 60-credit NCEA qualifications, will be recognised until at least the end of 2028.

NCEA co-requisite transitional period – questions and answers

Can learners mix and match additional assessment standards with the new co-requisite standards?

Learners must use only one assessment option to complete the literacy or te reo matatini component, and one assessment option to complete the numeracy or pāngarau component. For example, both the new reading and writing CAAs for literacy – not the reading CAA and 5 credits from assessments for English achievement standards.

If a learner uses credits from assessment standards on the approved list to meet the co-requisite, can they still use those credits towards the 60-credit NCEA qualification?

No, as this would mean counting the credits twice. From 2024, the 20-credit co-requisite will become mandatory for the awarding of any NCEA qualification, and credits used towards the 20-credit co-requisite cannot be used towards the 60-credit NCEA qualification.

Once a learner has achieved the Co-requisite, the same co-requisite can be applied to Level 1, 2 and 3 of an NCEA qualification. There are some situations where students believe they have gained the Co-requisite using the 266 unit standards and did not meet the criteria to do so. In these small number of cases a student may be expected to achieve the Co-requisite using the correct method.

Why are achievement standards from only some NCEA subjects included on the list?

English, Mathematics and Statistics, Te Reo Māori, and Pāngarau are priority curriculum areas. The inclusion of a small number of standards from Science, Social Sciences, Pūtaiao and Tikanga-ā-lwi reinforces the position that teaching and learning of te reo matatini, literacy, pāngarau, and numeracy should occur across the curriculum and a schoolwide approach is required.

Why does the list include NCEA Level 2 and 3 achievement standards? Won't these be harder?

The inclusion of Level 2 and 3 achievement standards for English, Mathematics and Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira, and Pāngarau is intended to support learners who may not have completed an NCEA Level 1 qualification. These standards are more demanding than those at Level 1, in that they assess skills and knowledge at a higher curriculum level. Recognising them towards the co-requisite during the transitional period will help schools, kura and providers to plan and deliver cohesive courses of learning at the same level of the qualification. For example, learners should not be required to undertake NCEA Level 1 courses in order to complete Level 2. Selection of standards, and the time when each learner will be assessed is at the discretion of individual schools and kura.

NCEA co-requisite transitional period – questions and answers

If a student uses achievement standards to meet the co-requisite, does this mean they will miss out on course endorsement?

No. Course endorsements are awarded separately to the co-requisite and the NCEA qualification. NZQA will check whether a learner has achieved 14 or more credits in an approved course, and fulfilled the other requirements, irrespective of whether these credits have been used towards the 60-credit NCEA or the 20-credit co-requisite

If a student uses standards from the additional list to meet the co-requisite, and achieves more than 10 credits for literacy, te reo matatini, numeracy, or pāngarau, what happens to the remaining credits?

If a learner gains 11 or more credits through achievement standards for one or both components of the co-requisite (ie, exceeds the 10-credit requirement for each), the additional credits will be counted towards their 60-credit NCEA. In this scenario, where 11 credits were achieved for literacy through additional assessment standards in English, the learner would have one credit available to use towards their 60-credit NCEA.

How many times can a student attempt the co-requisite?

There is no limit on the number of attempts a learner can make. In 2024, NZQA will provide two Common Assessment Activities for the new NCEA co-requisite standards.

Learner wellbeing should be taken into consideration when making decisions about which assessments to attempt and when.

We encourage schools, kura and other NCEA providers to enter learners for the assessments only when learners are ready to be assessed – and have a reasonable chance of success.

Wasn't the whole point of the co-requisite to move away from indirect testing of literacy and numeracy skills? Why are we continuing with "tagged" standards?

Overall, the approved list reduces what can be currently used to achieve NCEA literacy and numeracy requirements by more than 80 per cent. The list of assessment standards for the transitional period strikes a balance between increasing the robustness of the assessment of foundational literacy and numeracy skills and not prematurely cutting off pathways - particularly for our most vulnerable learners. At the same time, by reducing the variety of assessment options, the list supports the shift towards 2028 where only the six co-requisite standards can be used.

NCEA co-requisite transitional period – questions and answers

Why do tertiary and alternative education providers get to use the internally assessed unit standards?

Tertiary and alternative education providers tend not to use achievement standards to assess their learners for NCEA qualifications. Keeping the internally assessed packages of literacy and numeracy standards available that are currently relied on within tertiary and alternative education – in the same way that schools and kura currently rely on achievement standards – should help to reduce any disruption and inequitable outcomes for learners in these settings. The difference in standards permitted is an interim measure and allows time for NZQA and the Ministry to step up support and resources for implementing the co-requisite in these specific settings.

There are internally assessed standards on the list. Are these robust?

External assessment is a non-negotiable of the future state of the co-requisite.

Through piloting in 2021 and 2022 we know there are some aspects of external assessment, including timing, the digital-first approach and standardised contexts, which may take further time to adjust to ahead of 2028.

Internal assessment allows for teachers to assess learners using tasks that best suit their local contexts and allowing for more inclusive design in the conditions of assessment. In 2024-2027, internally assessed standards can be used to support more contextualised assessments of literacy and numeracy, and allows more time to prepare learners for CAA external assessments.

If a student has achieved credits towards the co-requisite in 2023, can these credits be ‘carried over’ and used in 2024 and beyond?

If a student attains literacy and/or numeracy prior to 2024, the student has passed their literacy and/or numeracy; they do not have to complete this again. Students must have gained the full 10 credits in literacy and/or numeracy for this to be the case. No partial attainment of literacy and/or numeracy can be carried forwards unless the credits achieved were on the approved standards list for the transition in 2023 when they were attained, then these credits can be used to count towards the co-requisite during the transition period (2024-2027).

If literacy and/or numeracy credits attained were achieved prior to them being added to the approved standards list for the transition period, then these credits cannot be used to count towards the 2024 co-requisite achievement and beyond. Credits not on the approved standards list prior to 2024 that were subsequently added, after the student attained them, will not be converted and used towards the gaining of a student's literacy and/or numeracy. The attainment of literacy and/or numeracy must follow the rules of the year the credits were attained.



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