

Vocational Profile & Vocational Pathways Award

The Vocational Pathways provide new ways to achieve NCEA Level 2, which is the foundation for success in further education and work. The pathways enable students to see how their learning and achievement will be valued in the workplace and the types of study options and jobs opportunities available.

Achieving a vocational pathway means a learner has developed the skills and knowledge in areas that employers' value. This will enable learners to progress to further education and training, building on what they have already achieved. Employers will be able to see a learner's strengths, their abilities, interests and achievements using the Vocational Pathways.

The introduction of the **Vocational Profile** and **Vocational Pathways Award** provides formal recognition of a learner's achievement using the Vocational Pathways. Each learner will be able to show how their achievement relates to the learning or skills training employers are seeking.

Vocational Profile

The Vocational Profile is a visual graph which will show learner achievement against the five Vocational Pathways. Learners will be able to identify their progress and identify where they need to raise their level of achievement when planning their courses for the following year and check that their course selections provide the pathways they need to achieve their goals.

From February 2014, learners will be able to access their Vocational Profile from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) website.

Vocational Pathways Award

To achieve the Vocational Pathways Award, the learner must:

- achieve NCEA level 2 which includes literacy (10 credits) and numeracy (10 credits) at level 1 or above, and
- achieve 60 level 2 credits from the *Recommended Assessment Standards* for a Vocational Pathways sector e.g Primary Industries, *including* 20 level 2 credits from *Sector-Related Standards* for that sector e.g Primary Industries.

Both the 60 *Recommended* Assessment Standards and the 20 *Sector-Related* Standards must come from the same Vocational Pathway.

Learners can achieve more than one Vocational Pathways Award if they complete more than one Vocational Pathway.

From June 2014, learners will be able to request their Vocational Pathways Award from NZQA. This will enable learners, such as those currently working towards achieving a Vocational Pathway in Youth Guarantee programmes, the option to be awarded their vocational pathway.

From January 2015, learners will have automatic access to their Vocational Pathways Award(s).

Q&A: How does NCEA Level 2 compare with a Vocational Pathway Award?

To achieve NCEA Level 2, a learner needs:

literacy (10 credits) and numeracy (10 credits) at level 1 or above; and
60 credits at level 2.

To achieve a Vocational Pathway Award (in a particular sector), a learner needs:

to achieve NCEA Level 2 which includes literacy (10 credits) and numeracy (10 credits) at level 1 or above; and
60 level 2 credits from the *Recommended* Assessment Standards for a particular Vocational Pathways sector e.g Primary Industries, *including* 20 Level 2 credits from *Sector-Related* Standards for the same sector e.g Primary Industries.

In the meantime, learners and education providers can use the *Profile Builder* to plan a vocational pathway(s) at www.youthguarantee.net.nz.