

Using Pathways Awarua to support learners meet the Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite for NCEA.

One of the challenges in supporting learners with lower-level literacy and numeracy capabilities is finding resources that engage older learners. Developed by the Tertiary Education Commission and supported by the Ministry of Education, Pathways Awarua is for adult, young adult and teen learners wanting to improve their reading, writing and maths skills for study, work and life. It is a free online, interactive learning platform designed to strengthen literacy and numeracy skills in contexts that are relevant to New Zealanders.

Overview of the co-requisite

The new Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite standards are set to become a mandatory part of the NCEA qualification from 2024. These new standards assess learners on important foundational skills that will help them succeed in NCEA, further learning, life, and work.

To get the co-requisite, learners need to achieve the ten credits in the Literacy standards and the ten credits in the Numeracy standard. All learners will need to achieve the co-requisite in order to be awarded their NCEA qualification at any level. The co-requisite can be achieved at any time from Year 9. Teachers will help learners to know when they are ready to be assessed against the standards.

Overview of Pathways Awarua

Over 500 modules of increasing difficulty are organised in pathways. These include reading, writing and numeracy pathways as well as pathways where literacy and numeracy is strengthened within applied contexts that are both familiar and useful (e.g. Road code, Health and Safety, My Money).

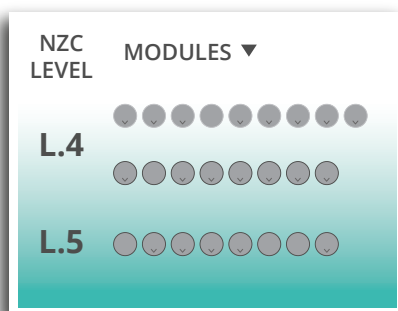
Pathways Awarua helps learners be **self-directed** in their learning as they progress along pathways at their own pace, starting at places that match their current capability. They are given **multiple attempts** to answer questions correctly and are presented with hints for incorrect responses. Learners receive **immediate feedback** on their responses and can **track their progress**.

Pathways Awarua and the co-requisite

The numeracy, reading, writing and listening modules are arranged in sequence with modules spanning the literacy and numeracy capabilities associated with Level 1 to the lower-end of Level 5 of the New Zealand Curriculum.

The NCEA co-requisite reflects a foundational level of learning. This learning sits at approximately **Level 4/5** of the New Zealand Curriculum, where learners have control of Level 4 and are ready to work at Level 5.

Learners who are confident with modules that are close to, or higher than, the co-requisite are most likely ready to be assessed against the standard.



A coloured gradient on the numeracy, reading and writing pathways indicates the approximate “level” of the co-requisite.

Getting started on Pathways Awarua

Navigate to www.pathwaysawarua.com and complete the Secondary Teacher registration form. Upon completion you will receive an e-mail confirming your username and your class’s join code. Learners are connected to your class by this join code. Learners can self-register by entering your class join code or you can invite or upload learners. A comprehensive **user manual** is available for download. A live-help feature and free webinars provide further support.

Introducing Pathways Awarua to your learners

It is important your learners understand why Pathways Awarua – and more generally literacy and numeracy – are relevant to their learning and their lives.

Share with learners that strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills will not only help them with the demands of the co-requisite but will also help improve future study and employment opportunities.

Many learners appreciate the opportunity to answer questions “in private” and receive immediate and specific feedback on their responses. Learner incentives, including certificates and monthly competitions, can help encourage reluctant learners to get started and then make progress.