

2027 Level 3 Course Outlines

2027TT 13ACC 13 Accounting

NCEA Level 3

Social Sciences

Course Outline

The Year 13 Accounting course is designed for students preparing for a career in accounting or the business world. Students will learn how to prepare financial statements and use accounting information to support decision-making. Topics include business partnerships, job costing, and cash flow management.

Assessment Information

9 UE Reading OR 9 UE Writing credits

2027TT 13BIO 13 Biology

NCEA Level 3

Science

Course Outline

In Biology, students will explore how living organisms are interconnected and how they function, change, and interact with their environment. The course covers rapidly advancing scientific knowledge, including the use of DNA, biological processes, and the impact of environmental factors. Students will gain an understanding of how organisms coexist and interrelate, how the human body is thought to have evolved and how it currently responds to change, and how biological issues affect society. Key skills include animal data collection and interpretation, analysing trends in biological systems, problem-solving, and scientific communication.

This course is ideal for students with a strong curiosity about life and living systems. It supports career pathways in health, agriculture, environmental science, policy, research, and education.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Level 2 Biology

Specialist Equipment

Assessment Information

15 UE Reading credits

9 UE Writing credits

Course Outline

Business Studies is for ākonga who are interested in the experience of running an enterprise, with support from the Young Enterprise Scheme. Both internals will be based on your own business. The first looks at target market and creating a marketing strategy for your business. Whilst the second internal requires you to put together your own business plan. It is strongly advised that you work as a group to run your business. Students will gain skills in problem solving, teamwork, risk-taking, resource management and business planning.

Assessment Information

Please note, there are only two internal assessments for this course. No externals. This course can contribute to University Entrance (UE), provided both internals are achieved.
6 UE Reading credits.

Course Outline

This course is suitable for students intending to study engineering, science, or economics at university, or for those with a strong interest in mathematics. Calculus focuses on refining algebraic techniques and understanding the mathematics behind the physical world through differentiation and integration.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Level 2 Algebra (91261) and Level 2 Calculus (91262)

Specialist Equipment

Students will need a scientific calculator, either an FX-82 or FX-9750 or similar. They will also require the stationary and workbooks on the stationary list. Internal achievement standards will be assessed at the end of the topic. External achievement standards will have a practice exam in Term 3 and a final exam in Term 4.

Course Outline

In Chemistry, students will explore the composition of matter and how substances interact and change. The course provides a deeper understanding of chemical properties and reactions, including those relevant to medicine, construction, and energy development. Students will investigate reactions in aqueous solutions, electron transfer processes, and organic compounds. Skills developed include laboratory investigations, chemical identification, concentration calculations, spectroscopic data analysis, and scientific communication. This course is suited to students interested in how substances behave and change, and how chemistry can improve everyday life. It supports careers in health, science, research, forensics, environmental science, policy, and education.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Level 2 Chemistry and Level 2 Mathematics

Specialist Equipment

Scientific Calculator

Course Outline

Level 2 and 3 Drama are often combined, offering students a range of collaborative experiences that enrich their learning. Students will work primarily in mixed-level groups, exploring theatre forms and techniques through scenarios tailored to group needs. Participation in competitions such as The Shakespeare Festival and Theatre Fest provides additional motivation and opportunities to perform on public stages in various locations. Watching performances, from professional productions to student work, is essential for developing a deeper understanding of drama. Students will explore a variety of performance types, including both scripted and devised pieces. The course has a practical focus, with limited written components used for verification.

Preferred Prior Learning

Students are welcome to join Drama at any level after a conversation with HAS. Good attendance and active participation are key to achieving success in this subject.

Specialist Equipment

There are opportunities to complete further achievement standards if students are interested in scripting and directing.

Course Outline

Design and Visual Communication is an ideal course for students interested in design. Students will apply design thinking to a chosen product or architectural opportunity. They will investigate, sketch, explore, develop, and model their design, considering both aesthetics and functionality. Final work will be presented in an exhibition using graphic design principles and digital modelling. Through this process, students will become creators of objects and spaces, seeing their world change through design.

This multidisciplinary subject nurtures transferable skills in critical and innovative thinking, allowing students to develop their own diverse style. The course is tailored to support and extend individual learning.

At each year level, students are challenged to deepen their thinking and refine their skills. Design is a universal language with global impact, and as students progress, they can explore pathways in architecture, business, construction, creative industries, engineering, and industrial or graphic design.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completion of Level 2 DVC is recommended, but not essential. Students who wish to enrol in the Level 3 course should speak with HSM first.

Specialist Equipment

Course Outline

Students who choose this course will learn about the world around them through the study of literature in the form of; short stories, poetry, novels, plays and film. They will sharpen their critical thinking, analytical skills, creative expertise and gain confidence to use their voice effectively. This subject helps to build up general language proficiency through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Level 3 English provides students with essential literacy and communication skills needed to excel in other curriculum areas. These skills are also highly valued by employers. Level 3 English is highly recommended for any student intending to attend university, particularly if they choose to study a degree rich in written and verbal communication.

Preferred Prior Learning

Level 2 Writing Portfolio

Completion of at least one external exam at Level 2

Assessment Information

Up to 20 credits on offer through a mixture of internal and external standards.

University Entrance approved subject.

14 UE Literacy Writing Credits

8 UE Literacy Reading Credits

Course Outline

This course is designed for students with a strong interest in literature, critical thinking and academic study. Through the exploration of predominantly written texts, including novels, plays, poetry and short fiction, students will examine complex ideas about language, society and the human experience. Students will develop advanced analytical and writing skills by engaging with a range of critical perspectives and literary theories. They will construct insightful arguments, communicate with precision, and refine the independent thinking needed for university study. This course is particularly suited to students intending to pursue further study in the humanities and provides an excellent pathway for those wishing to enter the NZQA Scholarship English examination.

Preferred Prior Learning

Level 2 Writing Portfolio (This is a prerequisite)
Completion of at least one external exam at Level 2

Assessment Information

Up to 19 credits on offer through a mixture of internal and external standards.
University Entrance approved subject.
8 UE Literacy Writing Credits
12 UE Literacy Reading Credits

Course Outline

This course focuses on the concept of Tono - being sent. Students are "sent" to make a positive difference in our world, putting Catholic Social Teachings into action in authentic contexts. These "hands on" experiences serve both Sacred Heart and the wider community including supporting the school canteen, leading the Pre-loved Uniform Shop, and weekly visits to Tainui Rest Home. These rich learning experiences help students develop skills in teamwork, empathy, service, commitment, time management, personal responsibility, and participation. This course can be taken alongside Religious Studies but does not contribute to University Entrance.

Assessment Information

This course is made up of Unit Standards and is not a UE approved course.

Course Outline

This course challenges students to apply advanced technological practice to food product development. Students investigate food-related issues and opportunities, develop conceptual designs and use stakeholder feedback and evidence to create outcomes that are fit for purpose. This course builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Level 2 Food Studies and also provides opportunities for students with a strong interest in food product development to join the programme.

Through research, analysis, practical investigation and product development, students explore how food products are designed, developed, and implemented within the food industry. The course encourages independent thinking, innovation, and informed decision-making while developing skills that prepare students for further study and careers in food, health, science and technology-related fields.

Ngā ara whai muri (Future pathways) include:

Food Technology

Food Science

Product Development

Nutrition and Dietetics

Culinary Arts

Hospitality Management

Health Sciences

University and Polytechnic Technology Programme

Preferred Prior Learning

Students who have not previously studied this subject at a senior level should discuss enrolment with Mrs McNeil prior to selecting this course.

Course Outline

Are you curious about how the world works? Geography gives you the skills to tackle real-world challenges and shape a better future. Level 3 Geography is designed to challenge senior students into examining and exploring topics in depth. Level 3 Geography builds on the knowledge gained in Level 1 and 2 and can be picked up by those new to the subject.

Key topic choices include:

- Global pattern - Maritime Piracy
- Research - North Taranaki Coastal processes
- Contemporary issue - Human Trafficking
- Contemporary event - Planning processes of RnV and TSB Festival of Lights
- Tourism in Rotorua

Geography sets you up for a future where your skills are in demand. Whether you're tackling climate change, addressing societal challenges, planning sustainable cities, or leveraging new technology like GIS, geography gives you the tools to solve today's challenges and prepare for a range of vocations.

Assessment Information

18 UE Reading credits

8 UE Writing credits

Course Outline

Year 13 History offers a flexible course shaped around your interests. We start by building key skills through the Nuremberg Trials, looking at the development of international law and how justice systems respond to major world events.

You then choose your own topics to research, such as the New Zealand legal system through cases like David Bain and Teina Pora, or major turning points in history like the Atomic Bomb, the execution of Marie Antoinette, or the Russian Revolution.

In studying history you will build skills in research, organising ideas, and writing with insight. Past highlights include visits to the District Courts and the Wellington Humanities Trip.

University Entrance (UE) can be achieved through internal standards.

Assessment Information

19 UE Reading credits

4 UE Writing credits

Course Outline

This course provides students with the opportunity to further develop their language and cultural knowledge through a combination of NCEA Level 3 Achievement Standards and selected Unit Standards. Students will refine their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing te reo Māori while engaging with more complex language, ideas, and cultural contexts.

Learning may include language analysis, extended communication tasks, cultural leadership opportunities, and practical applications of te reo Māori within community and marae-based settings. The course encourages students to use te reo Māori with confidence and purpose while strengthening their understanding of tikanga and te ao Māori.

Students may use this course towards University Entrance requirements, making it an excellent option for those wishing to continue their study of te reo Māori beyond secondary school or pursue pathways in education, language revitalisation, public service, Māori development, and other tertiary study areas.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completion of the Year 12 course is recommended for entry into the Year 13 course. Students who have not completed the Year 12 course should discuss their suitability for entry with the Teacher in Charge.

Assessment Information

Additional unit standards and Te Ao Haka Achievement Standards are available within this programme.

Course Outline

In Year 13 Media Studies, we look at how different audiences can interpret the media differently and what the consequences of this can be. We will look at these concepts within the context of film by applying different critical lenses. You will, however, be able to choose which film you want to use for your assessment. You will then get the chance to plan and create your own magazine on a topic of your choice. This will enable your creative juices to flow, while also giving you skills that you can apply to many different industries and jobs. This course will be particularly suited to those who want to understand the importance and impact the media has in our world and gain skills to navigate it. You do not need to have done Year 12 Media Studies to pick up Year 13 Media Studies.

Assessment Information

Please note this course consists of internal achievement standards only. No externals. This course can contribute to University Entrance (UE), provided all four internals are achieved.
3 UE Writing credits

Course Outline

Music is both a performing art and a universal language, making it a practical and knowledge-based course. Creativity is encouraged across a range of skills and topics, with students working according to their individual abilities.

Opportunities to extend skills are offered, and participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Senior Music includes the strands of 'Making Music,' 'Music Studies,' and 'Music Technology.' Within these areas, students are supported to develop their own interests and skills, with the goal of growing as musicians. Assessments are designed to align with each student's unique musical journey.

Preferred Prior Learning

Students may enter Senior Music at any level. To be successful in the course, students must be learning an instrument or receiving regular vocal tuition.

Course Outline

Pathways is designed to give students the opportunity to explore their interests and potential career options in a low-stakes environment. If students discover that a chosen pathway is not the right fit, this is seen as a positive outcome rather than a failure.

The programme provides learning opportunities not typically available in mainstream classes and supports students in identifying the pathway that best suits them. While qualifications are essential, work-readiness is vital for all careers. Pathways aims to demonstrate the relevance of school learning to future training and employment.

The programme also supports students in their transition to adulthood- emotionally, spiritually, and in building confidence, self-esteem, and awareness of the opportunities available to them. Students can choose from Internal Courses, External Courses, and two types of Work Experience.

Internal Courses:

These are on-site courses sourced from external providers and facilitated by experts. Some may include an off-site component. Examples include:

- Health
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Business
- Te Kura

External Courses:

These are off-site courses that may run from half a day to two days per week. They are facilitated by industry experts and cover a wide range of options, including:

- Sport & Fitness

- Hospitality
- Hairdressing
- Makeup
- Automotive
- Barista
- First Aid
- Customer Service
- Outdoor Education
- Agriculture

Time Based Work Experience:

This option allows students to gain work experience in a flexible, low-stakes environment with an employer of their choice. It provides a chance to explore whether a particular career path is suitable.

Gateway Work Experience:

This is a more structured and realistic work experience opportunity. Students receive support to transition into employment or tertiary education in their chosen field. Industry learning and assessment are included. If a Pathways opportunity results in students missing regular classes, it is essential that they work with their teachers to create a plan for managing their workload.

Note: Not all Pathways options are available at every year level.

Preferred Prior Learning

For TAP, WITT and TOPEC courses, students need to see Mr Foy at the start of Term 4 the year prior.

Assessment Information

Teaching and learning resources are purchased for internal courses and are provided for external courses.

2027TT 13PED 13 Physical Education

NCEA Level 3

Physical Education

Course Outline

Level 3 Physical Education covers a variety of practical topics related to sport and physical activity. Students will:

- Participate in a practical unit focused on Pickleball or Badminton, or a sport of their choice. They will learn, develop, and refine physical skills, then apply them in a competitive game setting.
 - Examine safety management issues in outdoor activities and develop strategies to minimise risks. This learning will then be applied during a two day, one-night mountain biking trip on the Timber Trail.
 - Recap training methods and principles, and study sport psychology. Students will apply this knowledge to improve their performance through a personalised training programme, preparing for a physical activity event such as the Taranaki 6-Hour Adventure Race or a triathlon.
 - Evaluate the role and value of physical activity in their lives, challenge assumptions about its importance, and devise strategies for lifelong wellbeing.
- Assessment will be delivered as a presentation based on their experiences.

Specialist Equipment

1x Clearfile, access to a mountain bike

2027TT	13PHO	13	Photography	NCEA Level 3	Arts
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Course Outline

In NCEA Level 3 Photography, students will study both established and contemporary photographic practices. Ideas will be inspired by the world around them, with students encouraged to use environmental, political, social, and cultural influences to challenge, reflect, and comment through their art.

Following photoshoots, most work will be completed using digital software such as Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. Strong skills in time management, organisation, and planning are essential for success.

Students interested in Scholarship Photography will receive more information at the beginning of Term 2.

Preferred Prior Learning

While completion of Year 12 Photography is recommended, it is not a prerequisite for entry into Year 13 Photography in 2026. Students interested in enrolling should discuss the course with BST prior to enrolment.

Assessment Information

Two internal assessments will take place in the first half of the year, totalling 8 credits. The external assessment is a three-panel digital folio, completed in Term 3 and worth 14 credits.

2027TT	13PHY	13	Physics	NCEA Level 3	Science
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Course Outline

In Physics, students will explore the fundamental principles that govern the physical world. Inspired by scientists such as Marie Curie, Ernest Rutherford, and Albert Einstein, students will develop problem-solving skills and gain a deeper understanding of phenomena from subatomic particles to planetary motion.

The course includes in-depth content in mechanics, waves, electricity, and nuclear and atomic physics. Students will learn how scientific ideas evolve through experimentation and modelling. Key skills include mathematical analysis, practical experimentation, and the use of language, symbols, graphs, and diagrams to explain real-world phenomena.

This course is ideal for students with a strong curiosity about how the world works and who enjoy challenges and learning new skills. Physics supports a wide range of careers in research, innovation, science, technology, policy, and education.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Level 2 Physics and an Algebra Course

Specialist Equipment

Scientific Calculator

Course Outline

Success in Painting requires strong skills in time management, organisation, and planning. Students will study both established and contemporary artistic practices to develop their techniques and concepts. They will select and investigate specific artist models to support and influence their ideas, allowing their strengths, individual style, and methodology to emerge.

Level 3 Painting involves the development of a body of work across the year.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completion of Level 2 Art is not essential; however, students who have not taken Level 2 Art must speak with CTA before enrolling.

Specialist Equipment

Assessment Information

The course includes two internally assessed standards worth 8 credits and a three-panel folio for external assessment worth 14 credits.

Course Outline

Religious Studies is a course for all students in Years 11–13, reflecting the Special Catholic Character of Manawa Tapu and embracing Gospel values and the charism of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

At Level 3, students will continue to deepen their understanding of Catholic faith and practices through the study of Te Atua - God, Te Rongopai - Good News, Ā Tātou Whakapapa - Our Story, and Kia Noho Hāhi - Being Church.

Preferred Prior Learning

Specialist Equipment

Assessment Information

12 UE Reading credits

2027TT 13SPA 13 Spanish

NCEA Level 3

Languages

Course Outline

Learning Spanish introduces students to new ways of thinking and interpreting the world, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to live in a culturally diverse society. At this level, students will continue to develop strategies for interpreting texts and responding critically to ideas, enabling them to comment on contemporary global issues.

They will listen to a range of Spanish accents and read a variety of Spanish texts in preparation for external exams.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Year 12 Spanish

2027TT 13STAT 13 Statistics

NCEA Level 3

Mathematics and Statistics

Course Outline

This course is designed for students pursuing further education in health sciences or social sciences such as psychology and sociology. Statistics focuses on writing statistical reports, conducting experiments, and learning about various probability distributions.

Preferred Prior Learning

Completed Level 2 Inference (91264) and Level 2 Probability (91267)

Specialist Equipment

Students will need a scientific calculator, either an FX-82 or FX-9750 or similar. They will also require the stationary and workbooks on the stationary list.

Assessment Information

Internal achievement standards will be assessed at the end of the topic. External achievement standards will have a practice exam in Term 3 and a final exam in Term 4.

4 UE Reading credits OR 4 UE Writing credits are available from this course.

2027TT 13TAP 13 Te Ara Pūmanawa

NCEA Level 3

Pathways

Course Outline

Te Ara Pūmanawa is a full-time programme designed for students who are eager to begin working but are not yet ready to leave school. It offers a comprehensive approach in moving from school to the next phase of life, combining practical experience with essential life skills training in a supportive and flexible learning environment.

This programme replaces the conventional school programme with the purpose of providing a structured and supportive environment that prepares students for life beyond school- whether they are continuing on to tertiary education, entering the workforce, or acquiring essential life skills.

Students must meet and sustain the below requirements throughout the year to remain in this programme:

- Students must be officially enrolled in courses or work experience on all three Offsite Days (Mon/Tues/Thurs) through the Pathways programme
- Students must demonstrate full commitment to both Onsite and Offsite Days, upholding all SHGC school expectations, e.g. attendance, uniform, behaviour etc.

OFFSITE DAYS: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

On these days, students must participate in external programmes such as:

- WITT 3+2 Courses
- WITT Trades Academy Courses
- Gateway (Workplace learning programme)
- Work Experience
- STAR Courses
- Other approved courses or experiences.

These offsite courses are delivered by NCEA-accredited providers, enabling students to earn credits toward nationally recognised certificates, qualifications, and NCEA.

ONSITE DAYS: Wednesday & Friday

On these days, students must attend school and the focus will be on developing life skills through a core programme that includes:

- Catholic Social Teachings and Service through Religious Studies
- Financial Literacy
- Cooking
- Fitness
- Wellbeing (Mental, Emotional, and Physical Health)

Students will also have the opportunity to focus on specific areas based on individual needs and work toward additional NCEA credits if required.

2027TT 13TEX 13 Textiles Technology

NCEA Level 3

Technology

Course Outline

In Textiles Technology, students will use textile materials in innovative ways to engineer solutions to authentic problems. They will become creative and conscientious designers who understand how their practice impacts the world around them.

The course is divided into two flexible projects, which can be adapted to suit students' interests and strengths. Students will explore how clothing and fabrics are influenced by and impact culture, history, and social trends. They will also learn about eco-friendly materials, ethical practices, and sustainable textile design. Textiles is an essential part of cultural identity and plays a significant role in society. The fashion and textiles industry is vast and diverse, offering career opportunities in design, business, merchandising, marketing, journalism, tailoring, and other creative industries. Graduates with skills in this field are in demand in the global fashion industry.

Preferred Prior Learning

Students who are new to senior Textiles are encouraged to meet with ECR to discuss course requirements before enrolling.

Course Outline

This course introduces students to the role and impact of tourism at local, national, and global levels. Students will develop skills and knowledge relevant to the travel and tourism industry, with opportunities for field trips and visits to explore tourism beyond the classroom.

Students will research tourist destinations in New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific Islands, examining natural and constructed attractions, activities, events, accommodation, transport, and visitor services.

The course allows for flexible pacing and accommodates Pathways placements.