

Services Industries

Services Industries account for around two thirds of New Zealand's GDP with sectors such as transport, tourism, communications, screen, trade, hospitality contributing, to name a few. There are growing demands for more educated and skilled young people who can enter and remain in the industries.

To do this, we need to ensure that all young people have the skills and competencies, including literacy and numeracy, to progress into tertiary education and training, and to enter and progress in the workforce.

Approximately 70% of school leavers do not enter degree level study, so there are many students looking at alternative options and careers via a different pathway.

NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent qualification is the minimum qualification that young people now need to succeed in New Zealand's economy. Achieving this means they are better prepared to enter tertiary study, training or work.

The Government has set a target that 85% of 18 year olds will have NCEA Level 2 or equivalent in 2017. Growing the number of young people coming through the education system with qualifications will make a positive contribution to growing the future labour market.

The Vocational Pathways

The Vocational Pathways were developed in collaboration with industry and education to ensure students 16-19 years have a better understanding of the workplace, and the qualifications and skills required by industry. Students can get NCEA Level 2 with Vocational Pathways, which shows they have a broad knowledge and relevant skills that are relevant to the industries.

There are six industries in the Vocational Pathways:



*Seeing people enjoy something I have made is the best feeling.
My path is Blue.*



Live the dream

Mathew's ambition is to work in the hospitality industry. He's not quite sure whether to be a chef or own or manage his own cafe.

Mathew's moment of indecision occurred 18 months ago. He was on the verge of leaving St Peter's College, Palmerston North, but instead became interested in how the Vocational Pathways offered through the Trades Academy at University College of Learning (UCOL), could help him learn the skills he was interested in.

Being in the Trades Academy has allowed Mathew to continue his education and achieve NCEA Level 2 at school, and spend a day a week at UCOL learning hospitality skills.

Mathew enjoyed cooking at home and raised the idea with the UCOL team. "They were positive, created an atmosphere for me to learn and gave me hand-on opportunities," he says.

*They prepared me for the real world.
Suddenly I was doing it.*

Mathew could explore options, receive work experience and successfully transition into the work force. He learnt how to master the coffee machine at UCOL's Ambitions Restaurant, knowing the difference between a latte and a flat white, preparing and cooking meals, serving customers in a formal setting and working front of house.

"I love cooking a roast. The challenge for me is to ensure the potatoes are not underdone," Mathew says.

By the end of 2013 Mathew had achieved his National Certificate in Hospitality and, this year, he's tackling a one year Business Management Course. That means he has the flexibility to choose between managing his own restaurant or being creative in the kitchen.

Already Mathew has a part-time job at Joe's Garage restaurant and, last year, was nominated for UCOL's Most Outstanding Student. And all this is happening while he's still a Year 13 student at St Peter's College.

Services Industries Vocational Pathway

The Services Industries pathway offers a broad range of study options for students such as:

- demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business
- perform food costing calculations in a commercial hospitality environment
- demonstrate knowledge of workplace requirements for employment in a commercial hairdressing salon

- demonstrate knowledge of products in a retail or distribution environment
- maintain personal presentation and a positive attitude in a workplace involving customer contact
- demonstrate knowledge of destination New Zealand
- construct and deliver a crafted and controlled oral text.

The flexibility of NCEA Level 2 qualifications with Vocational Pathways enables young people to easily change their study options, and many options are applicable to multiple pathways. Students can choose subjects which interest them, suit their learning style, or help them with their career choice.

Ask a young person for their Vocational Profile. It's a good way to understand how their learning relates to the Services Industries.

A student with NCEA Level 2 with a Services Industries pathway will have:

- a foundation qualification: NCEA Level 2 (or equivalent qualification), recognised as the minimum qualification a young person needs
- a Vocational Pathway in one or more industries
- the minimum level of literacy and numeracy required, or more
- a broad understanding and some relevant skills in the Services industries.



Sources

- www.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/forces-for-change/forces-for-change-06.asp
- *NZ Manufacturing Sector: its Dynamics and Competitiveness* by Castalia Advisory group is on businessnz.org.nz.