

Required & Recommended Background Subjects



Each year we field many questions from students, teachers and parents regarding prerequisites for first-year courses. Students are keen to know which Year 13 subjects they should take in order to satisfy course requirements for their chosen university programme.

Below is a list of major subjects offered by the University, and recommended school subjects which, students would be best advised to take to prepare themselves for their tertiary studies.

Required Background Subjects (to year 13)

	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Statistics	Calculus	Language-rich*	Other
Oral Health 14 credits in Level 3 Biology 10 credits (5 reading and 5 writing) from Level 2 or Level 3 English		++				++	
Dental Technology 14 credits in Level 3 Chemistry 14 credits in Level 3 Physics Level 2 Biology recommended	++	+	++	+ or	+	+	
Radiation Therapy 16 Level 3 credits in: Physics or Biology, Maths or Calculus or Statistics, English or Te Reo or History or Art History or Classics or Geography		++	++	++ or	++	++	

Recommended Background Subjects (to year 13)

Health Science First Year	++	++	++	++ or	+	+	
Biomedical Sciences	++	++	++			+	

BSc Majors

Anatomy	++	++		+			
Biochemistry	++	++		+			
Botany		++					Chem or Stats or Physics
Chemistry	++		+	+	+		Y12 Maths and Physics
Clothing and Textile Sciences	+	+		+ or	+	+	Soc Sci e.g. Hist, Econ
Computer Science				+	++	+	
Ecology		++		+			Geography, Sciences
Economics				++	++	+	Economics
Electronics			++		++		Digi Tech; Electronics
Energy Studies			++		++		
Food Science	++	++	+	+ or	+		Business Studies
Genetics	++	++		+ or	+		
Geography				++			Geography, Sciences
Geology	+		+	+ or	++		Geography, Sciences
Human Nutrition (Dietetics)	++	++		++		+	
Information Science				+ or	+	+	Digi Tech
Land Planning and Development			+	+	++	+	Geography
Mathematics				++	++		Digi Tech
Microbiology	++	++					
Neuroscience	++	++	+	+			
Oceanography	+	++		++	++		Geography, Physics
Pharmacology	++	++					
Physics			++		++		
Physiology	++	++	+				
Plant Biotechnology	++	++					
Psychology		++		++		+	
Statistics				++	++		
Surveying Measurement			+	+	++	+	Geography
Zoology		++		++			

*category includes 'language rich' such as English, History, Classics and History of Art, etc.

(+) Background learning useful

(++) Background learning recommended

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Recommended Background Subjects (to year 13)

	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Statistics	Calculus	Language-rich*	Other
BAppSci Majors							
Applied Geology	+		+	+	or ++		Geography, Sciences
Aquaculture + Fisheries	++	++		++	or +		Geography, Sciences
Clothing & Textile Sciences	+	+		+	or +		Hist, Econ, Tech
Computational Modelling			+	+		++	Digi Tech
Consumer Food Science		++		+			Home Econ; Bus Sts
Energy Management			++		or ++		
Environmental Management		+		++		++	Geography, Sciences
Forensic Analytical Science	++	++	+	++	or +		
Geographic Information Systems				+	or ++		Digi Tech, Geo
Molecular Biotechnology	++	++		+			
Software Engineering				+		++	Digi Tech
Sport & Exercise Nutrition	++	++		+			PE
Sports Technology		++	+	+		+	PE, Design, Digi Tech
Telecommunications			++	+	or ++		Digi Tech

BPhEd Majors

Exercise & Sports Science		++		+			PE; Sciences
Physical Activity & Health		++		+			PE
Professional Studies		++					PE
Sport & Leisure Studies		++		+			PE

BCom Majors

Accounting				++	+	+	Accounting
Economics				++	++	+	Economics
Finance				++	++	+	Acctg, Economics
Information Science				++	+	+	Digi Tech, Acctg
International Business				++	+	+	Economics, 2nd Language
Management				++		+	Business Studies
Marketing Management				++		+	Business Studies
Tourism				++		+	Geography, Tourism

Humanities

Law (LLB)						++	Drama, Debating
Social Work (BSW)					or	+	Social Sciences
Theology (BTheol)						+	Social Sciences
Music (MusB) & Bachelor of Performing Arts							Music
Teaching (Secondary)						+	focus on teaching areas
Teaching (Primary) (ECE)						+	Y12 English, Maths and
Science							
Surveying (BSurv)			+	+	++	+	Geography, Digi Tech
Engineering Intermediate	++		++		++		

BA Majors

It is possible to begin all BA majors without a background in those subjects – even languages. Students who enjoy subjects at school such as English, History, Classics, Media Studies and Drama are encouraged to consider the full range of BA majors as options for study. Music Performance students should have a background in music and are required to audition.

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