



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. While none of Otago's 100-level papers have prerequisites, some departments do recommend an appropriate background in certain subjects.

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

Recommended Background Subjects (to year 13)

	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Statistics	Calculus	English-rich*	Other
Health Science First Year	++	++	++	++ or +		+	
Biomedical Sciences	++	++	++				
Oral Health		++				+	Y12 Bio, English req.
Dental Technology	++	+	++	+	or +	+	Y12 Physics. Y13 Chem req.
Radiation Therapy		++	++	++	or ++	++	Y13 Physics or Bio req. Y13 Maths, English-rich req.

BPhEd Majors							
Exercise & Sports Science		++		+			PE; Sciences
Exercise Prescription & Mgmt		++		+			PE
Professional Studies		++					PE
Sport & Leisure Studies		++		+			PE

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			++		++		Comp St; Electronics
Energy Studies			++		++		
Food Science	++	++	+	+	or +		Business Studies
Genetics	++	++		+	or +		
Geography				++			Geography, Sciences
Geology	+		+	+	or +		Geography, Sciences
Human Nutrition (Dietetics)	++	++		++		+	
Information Science				+	or +		Sciences, Acctg, Geog, Comp St
Land Planning and Development			+	+	++	+	Geography
Mathematics				++	++		Comp St
Microbiology	++	++					
Neuroscience	++	++	+	+			
Pharmacology	++	++					
Physics			++		++		
Physiology	++	++	+				
Plant Biotechnology	++	++					
Psychology		++		++		+	
Statistics				++	++		
Surveying Measurement			+	+	++	+	Geography
Zoology		++		++			

Recommended Background Subjects (to year 13)

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

BCom Majors

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

Law (LLB)

Social Work (BSW)						+	Social Sciences
Theology (BTheol)						+	Social Sciences
Music (MusB)							Music
Teaching (Secondary)						+	focus on teaching areas
Teaching (Primary) (ECE)						+	Y12 English, Maths and Science
Surveying (BSurv)			+	+	++	+	Geography, Comp Studies
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.

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

- (+) Background learning useful
- (++) Background learning recommended