



Guidelines for Using Calculators

The Office of Student Accommodations (OSA) and the Mathematics Department have determined the circumstances that would allow for the use of a calculator as an appropriate and reasonable accommodation.

Guidelines

1. The Office of Student Accommodation's approval of the use of a calculator as an accommodation is based on the student's disability documentation.
2. The Office of Student Accommodations will consider requests for use of a calculator on a case-by-case basis. Due to the specific nature of some disabilities, a calculator may be the only way that a student can have equal access.
3. OSA will not approve of the use of a calculator as an appropriate accommodation when:
 - a. The provision of a calculator gives students with disabilities an unfair advantage, undermines academic standards, or fundamentally alters the nature of an assignment or test.
 - b. The test is designed to measure skills that the calculator would eliminate. For example, if the skill being tested is to calculate percentages or square roots, then a calculator would be an inappropriate accommodation. A fact sheet or some other strategy may be an appropriate alternative. However, a fact sheet is not an appropriate accommodation when the provision of a fact sheet fundamentally alters the nature of an exam.
 - c. The ability to add, subtract, multiply, or divide is considered an important part of what an exam is designed to test.

Other Considerations:

- a. It is entirely possible for the use of a calculator to be permitted for some exams and not permitted for others.
- b. If other students in the class are not allowed to use a calculator/fact sheet, the instructor may prefer that the student complete the test or in-class assignment out of the class.
- c. Calculator usage as an accommodation on exams is limited to a basic 6-function calculator and no graphing capability for MTH 02 (Arithmetic) and MTH 03 (Algebra I). The instructor on a case-by-case basis can make exceptions.
- d. Students should discuss with their instructors what type of calculator is appropriate for more advanced classes.