

Calculator Guidelines for COMPASS[®] Testing

At the discretion of the institution where COMPASS is being administered, calculators may be used on the COMPASS Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry tests provided they meet the requirements listed below.

To ensure fairness for all test takers, avoid disturbances in the testing room, and protect the security of the testing materials and process, **the following types of calculators are *not* permitted:**

- Pocket organizers
- Handheld or laptop computers
- Electronic writing pads or pen-input devices—The Sharp EL 9600 is permitted.
- Models with a QWERTY (typewriter) keypad (although calculators with letters on the keys are permitted as long as the keys are not arranged in QWERTY format)
- Models with built-in capability to simplify algebraic expressions, multiply polynomials, or factor polynomials (often called Computer Algebra Systems)—Prohibited calculators in this category include:
 - Casio: Algebra fx 2.0, ClassPad 300, and all model numbers that begin with CFX-9970G
 - Texas Instruments: All model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92
 - Hewlett-Packard: hp 48GII and all model numbers that begin with hp 40G or hp 49G

The following types of calculators are permitted *only* if they are used as noted:

- Models with paper tapes—The paper must be removed.
- Models that make noise—The sound feature must be turned off.
- Models that can communicate (transfer data or information wirelessly with other calculators)—The wireless transfer capability must be disabled by placing opaque material (such as masking tape) over the infrared data port.
- Models that have a power cord—No power cords are permitted. The electrical cord must be removed.

NOTE: ACT monitors new calculators as they become available. For the latest list of prohibited calculators, students and institutions are invited to call toll free 800/498-6481 for a recorded message.

If students plan to use a calculator, they are responsible for bringing an acceptable one to the testing session. Sharing calculators during the test is not permitted, and the test proctor will not provide a calculator.

Students are also responsible for ensuring that their calculator works properly. If their calculator uses batteries, students must make certain that the batteries are strong enough to last throughout the testing session. Students may bring a spare calculator and extra batteries with them.