



ACT[®] Calculator Policy

ACT[®] Test
ACT[®] WorkKeys[®]
PreACT[®]
ACT[®] Aspire[®]

Updated December 10, 2018

The most recent updates to the calculator policy pertain to computer-based testing formats. The calculator policy dated July 20, 2018, is still valid for any paper administration.

ACT's calculator policy is designed to ensure fairness for all examinees, avoid disturbances in the testing room, and protect the security of the test materials. Examinees found not following this policy may be dismissed and their tests voided for prohibited behavior.

Examinees may use any 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, as long as it is not on the prohibited list and it is modified, if needed. Details are provided below. Calculators may only be used on the mathematics test, including ACT WorkKeys Applied Math. Sharing calculators during the test is not permitted.

Accessible calculators such as audio/"talking" or Braille calculators may be allowed under ACT's accessibility policies.

Examinees are responsible for:

- Bringing—and using—a permitted calculator.
- Making sure their calculator works properly and has new batteries, if battery-operated
- Knowing whether their calculator is permitted (for the most current information on the calculator policy, visit www.act.org/calculator-policy.html or call 800.498.6481 for a recorded message containing highlights from this policy)
- Bringing a backup calculator and/or extra batteries, if they wish, in case their primary calculator fails

Testing staff is responsible for:

- Monitoring during the test to ensure examinees are using only permitted calculators
- Dismissing any examinee found to be using a prohibited calculator during testing

The following types of calculators are prohibited:

- Calculators with built-in or downloaded computer algebra system functionality, including:

Texas Instruments:

- All model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92
- TI-Nspire CAS
- Note: The TI-Nspire (non-CAS) is permitted.*

Hewlett-Packard:

- HP Prime
- HP 48GII
- All model numbers that begin with HP 40G, HP 49G, or HP 50G

Casio:

- fx-CP400 (ClassPad 400)
- ClassPad 300 or ClassPad 330
- Algebra fx 2.0
- All model numbers that begin with CFX-9970G

- Handheld, tablet, or laptop computers (including PDAs)
- Calculators with QWERTY format letter keys
 - This does not apply to calculators that are provided in a secure test delivery platform.
 - Letter keys not in QWERTY format **are** permitted.
- Electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
 - Note: The Sharp EL 9600 is permitted.*
- Calculators built into cell phones or any other electronic communication devices

The following types of calculators are permitted, but only after they are modified as noted:

- Calculators that can hold programs or documents: Remove all documents and remove all programs that have computer algebra system functionality.
- Calculators with an infrared data port: Completely cover the infrared data port with heavy opaque material such as duct tape or electrician's tape. These calculators include the Hewlett-Packard HP 38G series, HP 39G series, and HP 48G.
- Calculators with paper tape: Remove the tape.
- Calculators with power cords: Remove all power/electrical cords.
- Calculators that make noise: Turn off the sound.



In a computer-based testing environment:

- ACT Aspire, ACT State and District testing, and ACT WorkKeys provide an on-screen calculator.
- Hand-held calculators may not be connected in any way to the computer or device being used for testing.

Note for ACT Aspire Tests

Examinees taking Grades 3–5 mathematics subject tests cannot use a calculator; all problems can be solved without a calculator.

