

Departmental Guidelines

CALCULATOR USE (MD PROGRAM EXAMS)

The following definition is from the California High School Proficiency Examination http://www.chspe.net/preparation/calculators/:

MD Students will be allowed to use a calculator for all UME Exams unless otherwise specified in the course outline. If you wish to use a calculator, you may bring a solar- or battery-powered basic, non-statistical, nonscientific, non-programmable calculator. A basic calculator has 25 or fewer buttons and can perform no more than the four standard mathematical functions of addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (x), and division () and, possibly, percentage (%), square root (V), and sign change (+/-). The calculator may have a simple memory (M+, M-, MC, MR).

The calculator must not be in a case or sleeve of any kind, and you may not bring a calculator manual. You may not share your calculator with any other examinee. You may not use your calculator to share information during the test or to remove test questions or answers from the test room. If you leave the test room before you have completed testing (e.g., to use the restroom), your calculator(s) must remain on your desk in plain sight.

Unacceptable calculators for a UME Exam include:

- Statistical calculators. Statistical calculators typically have buttons with " Σ " on them or buttons for statistical computation menus usually labeled "STAT" or "STO." Statistical calculators also commonly have statistical buttons such as " S_x ," " S_y ," or " S_x^2 ."
- Scientific calculators. These are easily identified because of their sin, cos, and tan buttons. Other buttons unique to scientific calculators are "log" and " π " (pi).
- Programmable calculators. These have menus and blank buttons that can be used for varying functions. They often also have an alphabetic (QWERTY) keypad. Any calculator that has the capability of entering letters along with numbers is unacceptable.
- Calculators that are able to print.
- Calculators that make noise that cannot be silenced.
- Calculators that must be plugged into an outlet.
- Calculators that are part of other devices (e.g., watches, PDAs, cellular phones).
- Calculators that have raised screens that may be seen by other examinees.

Approved: UME Management December 2, 2015

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