



Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodations for Arithmetic Computation

For students who have a learning disability that impacts arithmetic computation, using a simple calculator could be a [reasonable](#) accommodation. The academic decision of whether or not arithmetic computation is essential to the course is typically the prerogative of the instructor and/or academic unit involved. However, this decision must be made within legal parameters.

If the faculty member is concerned this accommodation is [unreasonable](#) because it will lower standards, compromise an essential component of or fundamentally alter a course or program, such concerns should be addressed to DAS upon receipt of the “Notification of Academic Accommodations” email. The determination that an accommodation is unreasonable is an institutional decision that must meet legal and educational requirements. Faculty members should not unilaterally render and attempt to implement a judgment that an accommodation is unreasonable.

Process

- DAS will notify faculty if the student’s documentation indicates specific cognitive difficulties that would cause problems with arithmetic comprehension or computation.
- The faculty member should contact DAS if s/he has any concerns regarding this accommodation.
- If the faculty member believes this accommodation is not reasonable, then the process for an [accommodation dispute](#) should be followed.
- Faculty must complete an Alternative Testing Agreement and should identify the method that will be used to accommodate the disability or to determine the type of calculator permitted for the exam.
- Students must select this accommodation when scheduling exams.

It is important to note:

- Given the specific analysis for each course, it is entirely possible that the use of a calculator to be allowable for some exams, and not allowable for others.
- DAS will consider requests for use of a calculator on a case-by-case basis.
- DAS will not approve use of calculators as a reasonable accommodation when using it undermines academic standards.