

To Math 1050 Instructors
Spring 2013

Thank you for teaching Math 1050 College Algebra. As you may have heard, the math department has voted to **disallow all graphing calculators on in-class tests and the final in math 1050**. This was first implemented Fall 2012. The following is our new math 1050 departmental calculator policy.

“Scientific calculators with no more than a basic numeric store and recall memory are allowed on the final exam. The following are prohibited on any in-class test, quiz and the final: graphing, programmable, or calculators capable of symbolic manipulation, including the TI89, TI92, TI-Nspire, HP 48SX, HP 48GX, as well as other models and brands, computers, cell phones, and any other communication device that can connect to the internet. Further, individual instructors may require that no calculator be used on all or a part of any in-class test or quiz.”

This move is an attempt to have our students learn the material for themselves, rather than just punch buttons. This move is NOT an attempt to move away from technology. We as a department are still committed to utilizing technology. Students are allowed the use of graphing calculators, computers and websites during homework and for group projects. In fact we are continuing to design new projects that require the use of anything from graphing calculators to Excel in an attempt to familiarize students with the types of technology they have access to.

Another new policy the department has instigated is the Testing Remedies Policy:

Testing is an assessment of a student’s knowledge of the material without books, notes or outside help (unless specifically allowed for everyone on certain tests, i.e. a table of values given to all). Therefore any “test remedies” i.e. opportunities to earn some “points back” on tests should also be done under the same conditions. Any take-home remedies such as correcting mistakes can give students points in another category such as homework or part of their 3% allowed extra credit, but SHOULD NOT be added to the student’s test score. **NO TEST REMEDIES** whatsoever are allowed on the final exam.

- As a minimum, if points are to be given back on a test, the new test/quiz must be given under proctored conditions.
 - o The questions on the proctored test/quiz cannot be the same questions from the test.
 - o It is up to the instructor as to the format of the test
 - § How many questions
 - § How long students have to complete
 - o It is also up to the instructor as to how much credit to give back on the test within the following guidelines:
 - § At most 50% of the original points missed - must get the question completely correct
 - § At most 25% of the original points missed - the question does not have to be completely correct
 - o The proctored test/quiz must be given before the next test
 - o Only one test remedy allowed per test
- Additional suggestions:
 - o If a student makes a mistake on an test:
 - § Have them show what they did wrong – correct mistakes
 - § Fix it – explain in detail and complete sentences what they did wrong, show all necessary steps to get to the correct answer.
 - § Prove it! – proctored quiz or test, must meet criteria above.
 - o As a “ticket” to be allowed the right to try for points back, students should show up front that they have properly prepared for the test
 - § Have students come to review day with a test they created with at least one question per objective.

As a reminder, every general education class, which includes Math 1050, will be assigning a signature assignment for students to include in their e-Portfolios. Each of your students will post at least one of the class projects into their personal e-Portfolio. This may still be completed as a group project, but each student will need to post a project and write *their own* reflections at the end.

You are *not* responsible for teaching students to set-up or use their e-Portfolio. The signature assignments are the project-based labs that are available on the math departmental web page (on the syllabus). Direct them to the information in the departmental syllabus for more information. You *do* need to verify that the assignment has been placed into the e-Portfolio. It is recommended that you make this a requirement necessary for them to receive a grade for the project. There is additional information on the standardized math 1050 syllabus.

We will continue to use the Transportation Costs lab, the Mortgage lab, and the Least Squares lab. You are responsible for assigning at least two of these to your class. On the calendars, you will see that all three projects have intro and due dates already. I suggest that you determine which of these projects you don't want to assign and remove it from the calendar. You could choose to do all three, but remember that a minimum of two is required.

I want to talk briefly about reviews. I have placed review days on the calendars. If you meet for 50 minutes, you have the whole class for the review. If you have a longer block class, the review and the test are placed on the same day. This is not set in stone. Depending on your teaching style, you may prefer to redo the schedule to have a review in a block setting on the day before a test, or remove the reviews from in class altogether. I have made the calendar suggestions based on what the department has shared works the best in most cases.

As always, note the departmental calculator restrictions, the grading policies, and the final exam information in the departmental syllabus. In particular, note that all material in the calendar/schedule must be covered and the departmental final exam is mandatory. Conduct yourself in ways that uphold departmental and subject standards!

For those of you that are looking for new ways to teach, or insights into teaching at this level, the publisher has made available mini lecture notes for each section we teach. They can be found at the following site: http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/esm/esm_sullivan_sca9e/sca9e_hide/sca9e_mln_launch.html

Different Homework Options:

This semester, you are allowed to require your class use the MML for homework, and handle any ADA issues on a case by case basis. If you have a visually impaired DRC student, make sure to contact Suzanne Mozdy immediately so accommodations can be made right away. Below are some options you may choose:

1. **No MML.** Grade book based homework only. Students can use the generic MML course for their own additional practice. The generic MML 1050 code is [slcc66362](#). Give this code to your students if you don't plan on doing anything online. They can use a lot of resources with this code. Note there will be nobody monitoring this course. It is only for practice. This version contains all the features of MML but does not include any due dates. Students can also get some extra practice by going to www.interactmath.com and linking to many different textbooks. They will be able to view examples and get extra practice, but there is no gradebook at this site. It is a free resource, so students will be able to sell back their MML code if they don't want the extra resources that come with that option.

2. **MML Homework**. If you would like to assign online homework, the code to copy is **smith60576**. You will need to copy this course and then you can provide your own course code for your students to use. You will be able to edit it and change grade weights, due dates, etc. The course does not have due dates assigned, so that will be up to you. All of the homework and quizzes in this course are thought to be equivalent work to doing the book homework. These assignments are set to update the MML Study Plan. Many students use the study plan to see what they need more work on and to get personalized problems for the task.
3. Don't assign homework at all. You will have to provide some other assessment device(s). Weekly quizzes can be used as a motivator for students to practice on their own, for example. This option won't work for many students as they need external motivation to practice. This option allows your students variety on which way they want to practice. They can use the generic MML code **slcc66362** for practice, including the MML study plan, the book homework set, **www.interactmath.com**, or other web resources like Purplemath.com, and YouTube videos.
4. These are the obvious options, but others can be a blend of live and online homework, written work handed in, etc.

Again, thank you for teaching College Algebra. Have a good semester.

Zeph Smith