



## 2020 Science Olympiad Calculator Guide

Revised (8/20/19)

The following document was prepared to offer some guidance to teams as they select calculators for use in different Science Olympiad events. By no means are the calculators listed here inclusive of all possible calculators; instead they are offered as common examples. The decisions of the event supervisors will be final.

**Stand-alone non-graphing, non-programmable, non-scientific 4-function or 5-function calculators** can be used in the following events: Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Circuit Lab, Chemistry Lab, Codebusters, Designer Genes, Density Lab, Disease Detectives, Dynamic Planet, Elastic Launched Gliders, Experimental Design (Both Divisions), **Food Science**, Forensics, Geologic Mapping, **Gravity Vehicle**, Heredity, **Machines**, Meteorology, Mousetrap Vehicle, **Reach for the Stars**, Road Scholar, Sounds of Music, Wright Stuff, and Water Quality.



Stand-alone non-graphing, non-programmable, non-scientific 4-function or 5-function calculators are the most basic type of calculators and often look like the one shown to the right. These calculators are limited to the four basic mathematics functions and sometimes square roots. These calculators can often be found at dollar stores.

**Stand-alone non-programmable, non-graphing calculators**, in addition to the above listed calculators, can be used in the following events: Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Circuit Lab, Chemistry Lab, Designer Genes, Density Lab, Disease Detectives, Dynamic Planet, Elastic Launched Gliders, Experimental Design (Both Divisions), **Food Science**, Forensics, Geologic Mapping, **Gravity Vehicle**, Heredity, **Machines**, Meteorology, Mousetrap Vehicle, **Reach for the Stars**, Road Scholar, Sounds of Music, Wright Stuff, and Water Quality.



Stand-alone non-programmable, non-graphing calculators look like the calculator to the right or simpler. There are hundreds of calculators in this category but some common examples include: CASIO FX-260, Sharp EL-501, and TI-30X.

**Stand-alone, programmable, graphing calculators** and **stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators**, in addition to the above listed calculators, can be used in the following events: Astronomy, **Chemistry Lab**, Circuit Lab, Density Lab, Dynamic Planet, Elastic Launched Gliders, Experimental Design (Division C), **Gravity Vehicle**, **Machines**, Mousetrap Vehicle, Sounds of Music, and Wright Stuff.

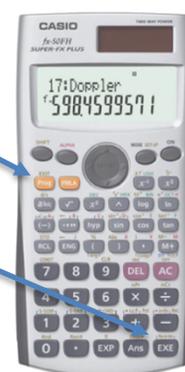


Stand-alone, programmable, graphing calculators often look like the calculator shown on the left. Some examples are: Casio 975 0/9850/9860, HP 40/50/PRIME, and TI 83/84/89/NSPIRE/VOYAGE.

Stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators are another type of calculator that can be used in the above listed events. To identify these calculators, look for the presence of the 'EXE' button, the 'Prog' button, or a 'file' button. Examples include but are not limited to: Casio Super FXs, numerous older Casio models, and HP 35S. A calculator of this type with the buttons labeled is shown to the right.

PROG Button

EXE Button



**Calculator applications on multipurpose devices** (e.g., laptop, phone, tablet, watch) are not allowed unless expressly permitted in the event rule.