

# Math 432 – Rules for Homework Assignments

These are mainly so that I can get your assignments graded and returned quickly.

1. "Global" requirements.
  - a. Use paper with no ragged edges.
  - b. Whenever you hand in solutions for more than one section, begin the later section's solutions on a new sheet of paper.
  - c. Keep the solutions for more than one section separate; do not staple more than one section together.
2. A whole section's answers:
  - a. Begin each section's solutions with your name, the section number, and a list of the problems assigned for that section.
  - b. Whenever the solutions for one section take up more than one sheet of paper, staple those pages together.
  - c. Present the solutions for each section in their natural, top-down, numerical order. (And do not use columns, please.)
3. Individual answers.
  - a. Show your work so that you can receive partial credit.
  - b. Present your solutions in the standard left-to-right, top-to-bottom, reading order. (Columns are OK in this context; that is, the solution for one exercise can be presented using columns.)
  - c. Clearly identify each answer. (Boxes, asterisks, underlines and the like are useful.)
  - d. Give your answers in complete sentences whenever appropriate.
  - e. Use the correct units whenever possible. Example: 24 miles per hour instead of 24.
  - f. Write clearly and neatly.
4. Numerical considerations.
  - a. Exact answers.
    1. You should (almost) always give these instead of rounding off or estimating.
    2. When you can give answers like  $\pi$  and  $\sqrt{2}$ , do so. In these settings, 3.141592654 and 1.414213562 are not worth full credit; they are only estimates/approximations.
    3. If you cannot give the exact answer, then use all the digits given by your calculator.
  - b. Rounding off.
    1. Don't do this unless it is appropriate. For example, don't round 10.5023 gallons to 10.5 gallons (unless you are asked to do so), but do round \$10.5023 to \$10.50 (since we can't spend 0.23 cents in our monetary system).
    2. If you *must* round, and there are no indications of how many digits are appropriate, use four decimal places or four significant digits, whichever is more.
    3. Round correctly, do not just truncate. For example, 1.1234501 rounds to 1.1235, not to 1.1234.
  - c. Estimating.
    1. When this is required, use at least four significant digits or four decimal places, whichever is more.
    2. When we know a method for getting an exact answer but you use some other method and get an estimate, you will not get any credit.
5. Graphs. See the handout "What Makes a Good Graph?".