

UCD Mathematical Sciences WeBWorK Guide

Note: the following is general advice that applies to all MATH and MST modules using WeBWorK. Some modules have additional, module-specific advice on answer submission or on how to approach certain questions.

Advice on inputting answers

If a given answer is not an integer (e.g. a fraction or irrational number like $\sqrt{2}$), you can enter it either symbolically or by using a decimal expansion. For example, you can enter the fraction $\frac{2}{3}$ either as $2/3$ or as 0.666667 . In the latter case, give your answer to at least 6 significant digits so that WeBWorK does not misinterpret it. The number of digits provided by most calculator displays should be sufficient.

Below are some examples of types of expressions that may come up in WeBWorK, together with typical examples and how to enter them.

If you are in any doubt about how WeBWorK is going to interpret your answer, press the 'Preview Answers' button.

Expression type	Example	Enter into WeBWorK as
Fractions	$\frac{3}{4}$	<input type="text" value="3/4"/> or <input type="text" value="0.75"/>
Powers, Exponents	n^5	<input type="text" value="n^5"/>
	4^k	<input type="text" value="4^k"/>
	$(-7)^n$	<input type="text" value="(-7)^n"/> NOT <input type="text" value="-7^n"/>
Polynomials	$2x^2 + 15x - 4$	<input type="text" value="2x^2+15x-4"/> or <input type="text" value="2*x^2+15*x-4"/>
Trigonometric functions	$\cos x$	<input type="text" value="cos x"/>
Exponential functions	e^x	<input type="text" value="e^x"/>

WeBWorK will also interpret e.g. pi as π , $\text{pi}/4$ as $\frac{\pi}{4}$, $\cos(\text{pi}/4)$ as $\cos \frac{\pi}{4}$, $\log(2)$ as $\log 2$, e^4 as e^4 , and so on. See

http://webwork.maa.org/wiki/Available_Functions

for other ways of entering answers. Also, sometimes you have to be careful when using brackets (and). Just as entering things in a calculator in a different order will produce different answers, so WeBWorK will interpret things in a different order, depending on where you put the brackets.