**TRS 82 Foundational Skills**

![MCj02153040000[1]]()Why is there a picture of a rhinoceros playing soccer on this important announcement? --Keep reading to find out.

**What are the Foundational Skills?** An expectation of this course is that you show mastery of certain skills. There are four skill categories. The categories and individual skills are listed below. Mastery of these skills does not guarantee you pass the course – you must earn a passing grade on all the material as explained in your syllabus.

1. Fractions
* Express a fraction in simplest form
* Add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions.
1. Percent
* Convert between fractions, decimals and percents
* Calculate the percent of a number
* Find the percent one number is of another
1. Rational Numbers
* Correctly compare the size of rational numbers (fractions, decimals, negative and positive numbers) -- \*includes the correct use of inequality symbols: >, <
* Add, subtract, multiply and divide negative and positive numbers
1. Expressions and Equations
* Use Order of Operations to correctly simplify algebraic expressions involving grouping symbols, multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
* Solve equations with one variable

**How will the Foundational Skills be assessed?** There will be a section on your final devoted to the Basic Skills as well as on exams throughout the semester. Each skill category will be graded separately. Calculators will not be allowed (except for percentages) for this portion of the final or the exams. You may get permission from your instructor to use a multiplication table if you wish. All calculations will involve numbers that are easy to work with.

**How will my instructor help me be successful?** Each of these skills will be taught in class and will be used consistently throughout the course and on tests. You may also visit your instructor or the Algebra Alcove for additional help.

**So why is there a picture of a rhinoceros playing soccer on this important announcement?**

How else could we get your attention?