



Welcome to MITT's Pharmacy Technician Program!

I am writing to share some important information to prepare you for success in our program.

Math is an integral component of everyday pharmacy technician work. In any practice setting, calculations are performed by pharmacy technicians in product preparation, quality assurance, packaging, dispensing and inventory management. Patient safety and optimized workflow depend on complete accuracy and efficiency in calculations. As such, strong emphasis is placed on learning and applying pharmaceutical calculations in the Pharmacy Technician Program. You will learn to calculate how much medication a patient needs for an individual dose or over a course of therapy, how long a given supply of medication will last, the quantities of ingredients needed to prepare a mixture, and much more.

Before we can begin to teach you pharmaceutical calculations, it is important that you have a solid foundation in basic math skills. Think about yourself as a learner and as a math student in particular. What are your areas of strength? Your areas for improvement? What strategies have you used in the past that worked for you to improve your confidence and ability in math?

Below is a list of the fundamentals on which you must have a firm grasp before you begin our program.

- whole numbers
 - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division – without the assistance of a calculation device
- fractions and decimals
 - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division – without the assistance of a calculation device
 - reducing fractions and working with mixed and improper fractions
 - converting between fractions and decimals
- percentages
 - performing calculations with percentages
 - converting between fractions, decimals and percentages
- ratios
 - expressing numbers in ratio format
- solving for unknowns in standard equations
- word problems

It is understandable and common to find that math skills become a little 'rusty' when they have not been used in some time. Here are some online sources to help refresh and improve your fundamental math skills. Remember that you are just working on the basics here – we will get to the fun pharmacy math in due time!

- Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/> or via the Khan Academy app
- cK-12: <https://www.ck12.org/student/>
- IXL: <https://ca.ixl.com/> or via the IXL – Math and English app
- Math TV: <https://mathtv.com/>

- Mathademics: <https://www.youtube.com/user/Mathademics>
- Math is Fun: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- Free Mathematics Tutorials: <https://analyzemath.com/>
- onlinemathlearning.com: <https://www.onlinemathlearning.com/math-worksheets.html>
- Math-Drills: <https://www.math-drills.com/>

On behalf of the Pharmacy Technician Program team, I wish you a happy and safe summer. We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Jennifer
Pharmacy Technician Program instructor