Tennessee Board of Regents
Office of Academic Affairs

THE ACADEMIC AUDIT
A Process of Continuous Quality Improvement

The Academic Audit is a faculty-driven model of ongoing self-reflection, peer feedback, collaboration, and teamwork based on structured conversation to improve educational quality processes in teaching and learning ... and hence student success. In 2004, the TBR system piloted the Academic Audit as a quality improvement initiative. Since then, 336 Technical Certificate, Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters and Ph.D. degree programs have employed the Academic Audit model. In 2008, TBR’s Academic Audit program received a Leveraging Award from the National Consortium for Continuous Improvement in Higher Education for its effective use of system-wide resources for academic improvement.

Quality Principles
- Define quality in terms of outcomes
- Focus on process (how things get done)
- Work collaboratively with ALL stakeholders
- Base decisions on evidence
- Strive for coherence
- Learn from best practice
- Make continuous improvement a top priority

Focal Areas
- Learning Objectives
- Curriculum and Co-curriculum
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Learning Assessment
- Quality Assurance

The Academic Audit process follows the academic year calendar. Programs conduct a self-study during the fall semester culminating in a Self Study Report. During the following spring semester, an Academic Auditor Team comprised of peers conducts a site visit and then issues a written report. Both the Self Study and the Academic Auditor Team Report identify opportunities for program improvement. These are implemented by the program during the ensuing five years after which time the process is repeated. At that time, initiative implementation progress, results and use of results for continuous improvement are presented and evaluated.

Academic Audit Outcomes:
1. A faculty-centered methodology that supports institutional effectiveness expectations
2. A thoroughly documented process that results in an ongoing chronicle of activities, results and use of results to effect quality improvement
3. A means by which continuous quality improvement of teaching and learning can be sustained