



*Tennessee Board of Regents  
Office of Academic Affairs*

**THE ACADEMIC AUDIT**  
*A Process of Continuous Quality Improvement in Teaching & Learning  
Leading to Student Success*

*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, over 500 Academic Audits have been conducted for Diploma, Technical Certificate, Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters and Ph.D. degree programs throughout Tennessee.*

**Quality Principles**

- Define quality in terms of outcomes
- Focus on process
- Work collaboratively
- Base decisions on evidence
- Strive for coherence
- Learn from best practice
- Make continuous improvement a top priority

**Focal Areas**

- Learning Outcomes
- Curriculum and Co-curriculum
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Learning Assessment

*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 meets the requirements for Quality Assurance Funding
3. A process that sustains continuous quality improvement of teaching and learning