



SACS Facts November 2010: More details on the Quality Enhancement Plan

Enriching the Educational Experience: Connecting the Classroom and the Community

UTC students will be competent, creative and critical thinkers who integrate and apply knowledge and ideas.

Critical Thinking

Student can explore issues, ideas, artifacts and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion through the processes of designing, evaluating and implementing a strategy to answer an open-ended question or achieve a desired goal.

Inquiry and Analysis

Systematically identify and explore issues/objects/works, organize and synthesize the findings individually and/or in groups, and understand the implications and patterns offered by the analysis.

Civic Engagement

Recognize a responsibility to make a difference, by developing the knowledge, skills, values and motivation to advocate, promote and pursue engagement in the community.

Integrative and applied learning

Integrate personal and educational learning across courses, over time, and between campus and community life to effectively apply knowledge to complex problems in real world settings.

Three Threads to Achieve Goals:

- **Pre-orientation/Orientation:** Introduce students to university study and critical thinking concepts.
- **Curricular Integration:** Build on past learning, integrate current thinking, and assess thinking as a part of the major, discipline, course work.
- **Experiential Learning/Think Achieve Awards:** Students will be able to apply and improve critical thinking skills as a result of participation in and reflection on a variety of planned experiential learning activities. The planned activities can include (but are not limited to) both credit and non-credit activities. The activities will be reviewed by a task force to ensure that they link to critical thinking skills and abilities and students can earn points to accumulate to earn Think Achieve Awards upon graduation. Students that earn a certain number of Think Achieve points will be awarded Think Achieve Awards and will be recognized at graduation. Possibilities for experiential learning: Undergraduate research opportunities, study abroad experiences, student development activities, service learning opportunities tied to specific courses or curricula, internships, capstone courses, academic clinical components, field work, etc. Will include a reflective component and assessment by both student and experiential "leader."

Credit Opportunities to earn Think Achieve Award points:

- Service learning opportunities within classes (short term)



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- Semester long projects through departments: Undergraduate research opportunities, internships, capstone courses, academic clinical components, field work, etc.
- External to classes: Study abroad, international experiences, undergraduate research opportunities, etc.
- Capstone/Internship/etc. as a part of the major

Non-credit Opportunities to earn Think Achieve Award points

- Co-curricular experiences through Student Development, etc.
- Co-curricular through disciplinary/departmental/athletics, etc. groups

Institutional Support

- Experiential Coordinator
- Critical Thinking Faculty Developer
- Faculty Fellows/Mentors/Teaching Awards
- Think Achieve Grants program
- Think Achieve Awards program (for Students)

Faculty and Professional Development Opportunities

- Institutes, seminars, workshops
- Faculty Learning Communities
- Think Achieve Fellows
- Think Achieve Grants

Institutional Assessment

- CAT (Critical Thinking Assessment test [scored by UTC faculty]; <http://www.tntech.edu/cat/>)
- ETS Proficiency Profile Exam (ETS PPE [replaces MAPP] <http://www.ets.org/proficiencyprofile/>)
- NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement [<http://nsse.iub.edu/>])
- FSSE (Faculty Survey of Student Engagement [<http://fsse.iub.edu/>])