

## **UT Austin's Software Quality Institute: developing the next generation of software professionals**

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Travel back in time to Austin circa 1990. Heads were just starting to turn and take note of the sleepy college town turned high tech Mecca for computers, software, and information systems. The California migration was on the cusp of beginning. Employers raced to find quality software professionals. It was during this time of prosperity, as well as growing pains, that key players in the Austin software community and The University of Texas at Austin joined forces to determine ways to ensure that Texas software producers could compete favorably in global markets.

The answer was found in the creation of the Software Quality Institute (SQI). Born out of a need to jump-start the Austin software industry by seeding the community with the next generation of software professionals, SQI was positioned as the primary software industry outreach program of The University of Texas at Austin. During the years that followed, SQI successfully rolled out "practitioner-to-practitioner" training courses, the award-winning Software Project Management certificate program, custom offerings, the popular Software Quality Matters newsletter, community outreach activities, and the SQI book series.

In January of 2003, SQI re-emerged as a comprehensive provider of software quality resources. From training opportunities, custom programs, and a new web portal for software quality, to the highly anticipated re-launch of the Software Quality Matters newsletter, SQI continues to educate software users and producers about issues vital to the production and application of high quality software. Current offerings cover topics including project management, testing, open source software, and the popular eXtreme Programming (Agile Methods). New offerings, including three **online** modules covering Foundations of SW Project Management, Essentials of SW Engineering, and Principles of SW Testing, expand SQI's reach to meet the training needs of national and international software professionals.

Proof of SQI's far-reaching values lies in the benefits realized by the over 7,000 participants that have passed through its doors. As one past participant said, "The knowledge and experience that I've gained has been instrumental in my overall career development and future."

For more information, visit [www.softwarequality.org](http://www.softwarequality.org) or call 512.471.3506.