

Tulane University – Master of Science in Disaster Resilience Leadership

The Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy (DRLA) is dedicated to the systematic strengthening of global humanitarian leadership, a process that integrates education, research, and application – to achieve increased resilience in communities and individuals impacted by natural and manmade disasters.

The Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy is part of the Tulane School of Social Work. The DRLA's mission of strengthening leadership in communities to address root causes of vulnerability, such as chronic poverty and social inequality, is very much in line with the School of Social Work's dedication to teaching students about human diversity and the importance of promoting social and environmental justice.

The DRLA targets specifically the role and development of leadership and resilience in producing effective programs or outcomes, making the DRL Academic Program the first with such a dynamic and innovative focus.

The Disaster Resilience Leadership (DRL) Graduate Program is a broad-based, integrative, and evidence-based graduate program that addresses relationships among the physical environment, the built environment, the social, economic, and political institutions and processes that characterize communities that are vulnerable to disasters. The program applies the knowledge of the context of disasters to leadership that leads to resilient, sustainable, post-disaster communities.

MS-DRL Curriculum

The Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy is interdisciplinary and encourages domestic involvement as well as international experiences, focusing on disaster operations management and policy, leadership analytics, research/data analysis, environmental hazards and the psychosocial aspect of disasters. We aim to equip our students with a skill-set that prepares them to be a leader in global humanitarian assistance, partaking in emergency preparedness, nonprofit leadership, disaster management, grass-roots development, monitoring and evaluation and disaster risk and recovery.

The Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy offers a Master of Science in DRL (36-credit hours). Our 36-credit hour Master's program includes 18 credits of core requirements and 18 credits of electives, 12 electives of which can be taken in any of the Tulane schools to hone student interests. There are several curriculum plans that allow for great flexibility in course load. Many students complete the degree in 3-semesters (fall/spring/summer). The accelerated track has a two-semester New Orleans residency requirement, with the summer semester completed either online or at the DRLA Summer Institute.

Graduate Research Assistantships

The DRLA offers graduate research assistantships, allowing students to offset tuition costs while gaining valuable experience working on major grant projects. Students are engaged in such tasks as mapping using GIS, conducting secondary data analysis, helping design quantitative baseline household surveys to measure resilience in target Sub-Saharan African countries, and conducting research for literature reviews. In addition to the multiple GRA positions working on grant projects funded by USAID, the Gates Foundation, UNICEF, and the World Bank, the DRLA created field graduate research assistant positions to work on the BP Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI).

The students will be in the field collecting information about health, social wellbeing and economic impacts of the oil spill in three hard-hit coastal communities located in Louisiana and Alabama.

Five curricular areas create an integral foundation for the candidates of the Disaster Resilience Leadership Master's program. These key academic pillars are:

Disaster Operations
Human Factors
Leadership Analytics
Environmental Hazards
Research Methodologies: Quantitative and Qualitative

Admissions

Applications can be requested by emailing info@drlatulane.org. The admissions process is competitive and students should contact Dr. Meredith Feike, Director of Recruitment and Student Affairs, at mfeike@tulane.edu with questions about the application and admissions process.

Applications for admission to the DRLA program are accepted on a rolling basis:

Fall Semester Deadline: August 1
Spring Semester Deadline: December
Summer Semester Deadline: May 1

Tulane University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

For more information:

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Additional Information: Can be found at www.drlatulane.org and inquiries can be sent to info@drlatulane.org.

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