



Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities

Forming and Informing the Next Generation of Researchers and Practitioners



PHOTOGRAPHER KRIS KRUG/GETTY IMAGES

The Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities (CRGC), formed after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, is a research, outreach, and training program aimed at examining the social, economic, and public health impacts on communities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Over the past three years, more than 40 students have pursued undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees while conducting hands-on research alongside CRGC's diverse professional staff. Students analyze and manage data, review existing research, help develop new tools, present at conferences, and author peer-reviewed papers. They also train community health workers, conduct surveys, and otherwise engage with local communities that were affected by the oil spill. The ultimate goal is to generate actionable information to help communities become more resilient, so they are better prepared for and can recover quickly from a future oil spill, hurricane, or other disaster.

Funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), CRGC offers a unique training environment that emphasizes transdisciplinary research methods and best practices. Because the impacts of the disaster are overlapping and interdependent, no single discipline has all the necessary expertise to conduct this type of research. CRGC also uses an adaptive systems approach to understanding community resilience that is difficult to replicate in a traditional discipline-focused academic environment.

In short, CRGC is training the next generation of leaders and experts in how to build community resilience.

What type of work do students contribute?

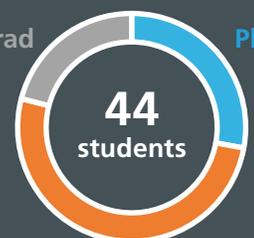
- Reviewing scientific literature
- Analyzing and managing data
- Training community health workers
- Presenting at conferences and authoring peer-reviewed papers
- Developing new tools

Who participates?

Louisiana State University
Pardee RAND Graduate School
Tulane University
University of South Alabama

Undergrad

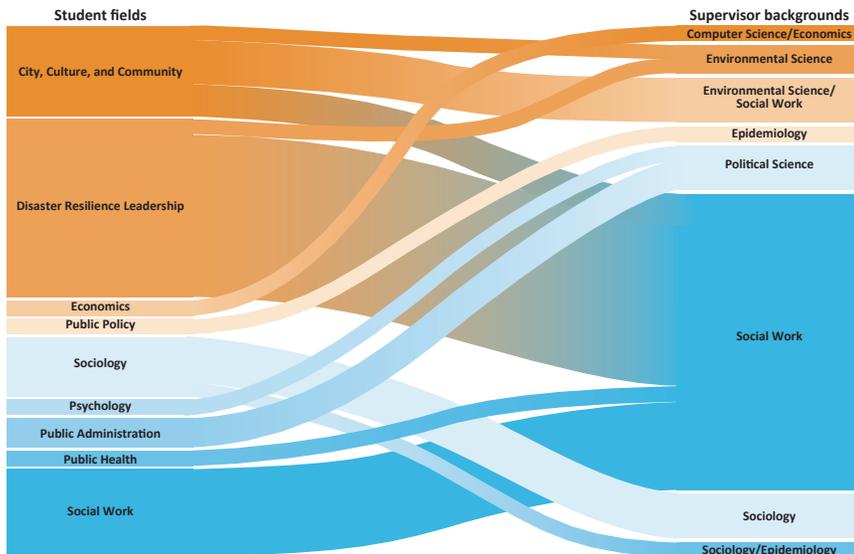
PhD



44
students

Master's

Transdisciplinarity is the biggest benefit for students and the research



Students are pursuing work that will advance not only the science but also their professional paths.

They work with experts from diverse research fields who aim to expand the students' understanding of disaster recovery and resilience, help them learn new problem-solving skills, and give them the necessary tools to work with disciplines outside their own field. CRGC experts also contribute to a series of webinars for graduate students that speak to a range of transdisciplinary issues.

Working alongside these experts and other future leaders in the field helps students expand their professional networks and consider career paths that might not have occurred to them before.

>50% of our students are working with supervisors from an academic background different than their own

90% of our students anticipate a career that involves interdisciplinary work

2 students have been recognized as GoMRI Scholars by CRGC's funder

Transdisciplinary webinars

- ✓ Cross-Sector Career Paths
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement
- ✓ Women in Science and Research

What do students say about their CRGC experience?

85% were satisfied with the overall experience

85% received constructive feedback

65% reported intellectual satisfaction

50% often or always learned a new method or skill

50% often or always gained useful subject-matter expertise

Funded by



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Learn more

www.resilientgulf.org



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