

Report: University of Iowa Response to Hurricane Katrina
Updated 9-26-05

Note: In addition to this report, the latest news regarding the relief effort—as well as links to information about resources and aid agencies—is available on the University’s hurricane aid web page: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~ournews/hurricane>.

University Overview

The University of Iowa has taken a variety of actions centrally and at the college, department, or unit level to provide assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

President Skorton has asked Executive Vice President and Provost Michael J. Hogan to coordinate and lead the University response (contact: 335-3565, provost-office@uiowa.edu).

- Our top priority has been addressing the needs of University of Iowa students whose hometowns and families are in the hurricane-damaged areas. We are offering counseling and consideration of financial concerns that may result from loss of family and parental sources of income.
- Thirteen undergraduate and eleven graduate and professional students displaced by the hurricane are now enrolled at the UI. The University and the colleges will continue to assist displaced students on a case-by-case basis.
 - We have offered to enroll and provide housing and financial advice and assistance as needed to residents of Iowa who were attending colleges and universities in affected areas.
 - In cooperation with the Association of American Universities (AAU), we have offered to enroll and house (or assist in finding housing for) students who live outside of Iowa and were attending colleges and universities in affected areas. We have allowed students to enroll at in-state tuition rates, provided tuition scholarships, and worked with them on other financial aid issues.
 - We have worked to identify students from the colleges and universities in the affected areas—including the historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions—with whom we have programmatic relationships through such programs as the Summer Research Opportunity Project (SROP) and Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) in mathematics and the sciences.
 - Departments are collaborating with the Academic Advising Center and the UI AGEP office to provide students with class notes and tutoring, mentors, and connections to current UI students and student organizations, in order to get them up to speed and welcome them into the UI community.
 - In order to provide displaced students admitted to the UI with tuition scholarships and help with expenses related to relocation, Provost Hogan has established the “Hurricane Katrina Academic Relief Fund,” to which faculty, staff, students, and friends of the UI have already pledged/contributed \$16,000. Should contributions to the fund exceed the needs of the displaced students, the UI will donate the surplus to the American Red Cross.
- We continue to offer distance learning opportunities to help students affected by the hurricane keep on track toward graduation. We have over 100 Guided Independent Studies courses available on the Web, and students are welcome to start these at any time.

- In collaboration with national academic and professional organizations like the AAU, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), we continue to explore the possibilities for helping faculty, scientists, post-doctoral students and graduate students displaced by the hurricane who need access to resources like space and research materials.
- We have offered to provide expertise in critical areas, such as public health, hydraulic engineering, environmental health and safety, and health services, including counseling.
- The University organized a “Hawkeye Hurricane Relief” fundraising campaign, collecting donations for the American Red Cross at a variety of locations throughout Iowa City, Coralville, and the University of Iowa campus Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17.

Following is a summary of efforts under way in the colleges and other University units.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

UI Contact: Helena Dettmer (335-2635, helena-dettmer@uiowa.edu) - Undergraduate Students
Joe Kearney (335-3994, joe-kearney@uiowa.edu) - Graduate Students & Faculty

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is coordinating efforts with the Office of Admissions, the Graduate College and the Vice President for Research to accommodate the needs of displaced students and faculty. Undergraduate students needing assistance should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Helena Dettmer. Faculty and graduate students should contact the Associate Dean for Research, Joe Kearney.

College of Business

UI Contact: Bob Forsythe (335-0865, robert-forsythe@uiowa.edu) - Graduate Programs

The college is working with students on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact Bob Forsythe. The Tippie College of Business will make every effort to accommodate displaced graduate students in its programs. They will also try to accommodate faculty (offering office space and "Visiting Scholar" status). Doctoral students will need to contact Caren Cox in the Graduate College (see below).

The College posted an announcement on the Web welcoming Tulane business students who are interested in attending courses at The University of Iowa (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tulanembatraveler/message/8>).

Dean Gary Fethke, Senior Associate Dean Bob Forsythe, and Mary Spreen are working with the University and outside sources to secure the best possible financial assistance for displaced students who seek to continue their studies at the Tippie College of Business. Current and former students are offering assistance through shared housing and transportation. The College is collecting donation pledges from alumni and friends to help support displaced business students that might come to the UI (see <https://www.biz.uiowa.edu/deans/pledge.cfm>.) Those who pledge support will be called on to fulfill their pledges only after students are identified and relocated to Iowa City.

The Tippie College of Business has also raised funds to help displaced business students from Southern University of New Orleans who were relocated to Southern University of Baton Rouge. The money will go toward the purchase of textbooks to replace those lost due to hurricane damage.

The MBA Association (MBAA) partnered with The University of Iowa to sponsor a collection for the American Red Cross during the UNI football game.

The Tippie College of Business has provided its Small Business Development Center Director, Paul Heath, with release time to travel to New Orleans for two weeks to assist with starting or restarting small businesses in the area.

College of Dentistry

UI Contact: David Johnsen (335-7144, david-johnsen@uiowa.edu)

The College is working closely with LSU (its health sciences campus is in New Orleans). LSU, in turn, is assessing its needs. LSU will coordinate any placement of students. Students should contact LSU first (225-578-4033, DentalSchoolContact911@lsuhsc.edu). (LSU has established a logistics center in Baton Rouge for the New Orleans Dental School.) In addition, LSU is maintaining a Web site, on which they post regular updates (<http://www.lsuhs.edu>). Students should be directed to this Web site.

College of Education

UI Contacts: Sandra Damico (335-6111, sandra-damico@uiowa.edu)
Carolyn Colvin (335-6111, carolyn-colvin@uiowa.edu)

The College of Education welcomes contact from displaced students and will handle student placement on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact the Office of the Dean in the College of Education. The Dean's Office will work with students to determine the best course of action, given their programs and needs.

College of Engineering

UI Contacts: Alec Scranton (335-5148, alec-scranton@uiowa.edu) - Undergraduate Students
Greg Carmichael (335-5191, gregory-carmichael@uiowa.edu) - Graduate Students

The College of Engineering is working with students on a case-by-case basis to determine how to best address their particular program needs and help them continue their studies with minimal disruption. Undergraduate students may contact Alec Scranton; graduate students may contact Greg Carmichael.

Graduate College

UI Contacts: Caren Cox (335-2144, caren-cox@uiowa.edu)
Phil Kutzko (335-0758, philip-kutzko@uiowa.edu)

The Graduate College will admit displaced graduate students on G9 status (i.e., no program affiliation). They will waive the transcript requirement and will also waive the two-course limitation for non-program students. Students should contact Caren Cox. Also, students should contact the director of graduate studies for the department in which they wish to study to determine the availability of courses and other resources.

In addition, Phil Kutzko, director of the Office of Graduate Ethnic Inclusion, is proactively reaching out to students who participated in the AGEF summer visit and to SROP students (with assistance from Dean Phillip Jones). These students will be invited to attend The University of Iowa. The tuition and fees of those who enroll will be covered, as will transportation, housing and furniture (as needed). If other students from historically black colleges and universities or minority-serving institutions in the disaster area are identified (i.e., non-AGEF, non-SROP students), Professor Kutzko will also work to assist them. Faculty and other members of the University of Iowa community who identify such students, or the students themselves, should contact Phil Kutzko.

College of Law

UI Contact: Collins Byrd (335-9019, collins-byrd@uiowa.edu)

Students in their second year of law school and beyond may take courses under a “special visiting student” designation. They must complete a short form in the College of Law and meet with Collins Byrd. They must also meet with Susan Palmer to discuss financial aid and general course offerings. Finally, they must meet with Linda McGuire to register for their courses. The College of Law is coordinating its efforts to assist students with their home institutions in the hurricane-affected region.

First-year law students cannot be accommodated, since courses are well under way.

Carver College of Medicine

UI Contacts: Peter Densen (335-9825, peter-densen@uiowa.edu)
Kimberly Ephgrave (335-8435, kimberly-ephgrave@uiowa.edu) - Undergraduate Medical Education
Mark Wilson (356-8556, mark-c-wilson@uiowa.edu) - Graduate Medical Education
Charles Helms (356-1570, charles-helms@uiowa.edu) - Contact for NIH Katrina Response Unit

For students, the student’s home school will coordinate placement (per Jordan Cohen, Association of American Medical Colleges [AAMC] president). Students should contact their dean or graduate medical education director at their home school. Also, they can contact Robert Sabalis (vice president of student affairs, AAMC). The Carver College of Medicine is working with the AAMC. The AAMC Web site (<http://www.aamc.org/>) is also posting regular updates and contact information for students.

In cooperation with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the AAMC, The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) have been on alert to assist in a coordinated emergency medical response to address the critical medical needs of the people in the areas struck by Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Charles Helms is the Carver College of Medicine and UIHC designated contact for the NIH Katrina Response Unit, which has managed the response.

Carver College of Medicine has implemented a policy permitting faculty to take a leave of absence with pay for up to 10 working days to assist in relief efforts (pending approval from their DEO, which is contingent on assurances that coverage of essential duties will not be interrupted).

College of Nursing

UI Contact: M. Patricia Donahue (335-8210, mary-donahue@uiowa.edu)

The College will work with students on a case-by-case basis to determine how to best address their particular program needs. Students should contact M. Patricia Donahue, who will work with them individually.

College of Pharmacy

UI Contact: Mike Kelly (335-7644, michael-w-kelly@uiowa.edu)

The College is coordinating its efforts to assist students and institutions in the hurricane-affected area with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. At this point, Xavier is planning to resume its program in January and would prefer that other universities did not offer classes to students in the 1st through 3rd years of their studies. Xavier and Louisiana Monroe are requesting assistance in providing students with rotations (experiential education opportunities). The College is inviting students to participate in its October and November rotations to address this need. Students should contact Mike Kelly, who will work with them individually to try to accommodate their rotation and other needs.

College of Public Health

UI Contact: Tanya Uden-Holman (384-5489, tanya-uden-holman@uiowa.edu)

The College will work with students on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact Tanya Uden-Holman. They will also need to contact Caren Cox in the Graduate College (see above). Additionally, the College of Public Health will work with displaced faculty by offering office space and other resources (although not salary).

Office of Admissions

UI Contact: Michael Barron (335-1548, michael-barron@uiowa.edu)

The Office of Admissions has put procedures in place to smooth the transition for students displaced by the hurricane who enroll at The University of Iowa (e.g., admissions processes, financial aid, etc.). Students have not been required to submit transcripts for admission during the fall semester. The University of Iowa is admitting all students displaced by Hurricane Katrina at in-state, resident rates for the current semester and will work with students in dire financial need to find some form of financial aid or other assistance to cover their tuition costs for the fall semester.

Orientation Services

UI Contact: Andy Cinoman (335-1597, andy-cinoman@uiowa.edu)

Orientation Services has compiled a list of student volunteers who can provide information to students who are displaced by Hurricane Katrina and are enrolling at The University of Iowa. The volunteer students have been meeting individually with incoming students, providing campus tours, offering to answer questions, and sharing general information about The University of Iowa and the community. Individuals interested in this assistance should contact Andy Cinoman.

Office of International Students and Scholars

UI Contact: Scott King (335-0335, scott-king@uiowa.edu)
Becca Hanson (335-1534, rebecca-hanson@uiowa.edu)

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is working with displaced students on a case-by-case basis. OISS has asked the Office of Admissions not to place a “new student hold” on the students, so that they can begin classes as soon as possible. OISS will also work with students to address orientation and other needs. Inquiries from or regarding international students displaced by Hurricane Katrina who wish to study at The University of Iowa should be forwarded to both Scott King and Becky Hanson (in the Office of Admissions).

University of Iowa Libraries

UI Contact: Nancy Baker (335-5867, nancy-l-baker@uiowa.edu)

University Librarian Nancy Baker expects to offer Tulane free interlibrary loan and borrowing privileges.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

UI Contact: Steve Fleagle (384-0595, steve-fleagle@uiowa.edu)

Tulane is implementing a new Student Information System using the same product/vendor as The University of Iowa. Only about five other institutions are using the same product. Steve Fleagle has contacted the Tulane CIO and offered IT Infrastructure and working space for the Tulane developers and consultants, or hosting services for instances of their system. He also extended a general offer to help in IT-related matters. ITS is also active as a member of the Internet2 Consortium that is investigating forms of assistance for Tulane University.

Women's Resource Action Center

UI Contact: Monique DiCarlo (335-1485, monique-dicarlo@uiowa.edu)

Ms. DiCarlo has offered to help provide connections to individuals touched by the hurricane who are in need of external connections to resources, or those who wish to offer help to victims of the disaster (e.g., help coping with the socio-emotional effects of the disaster, relief agencies, etc.). In addition, the Women's Resource Action Center collected furniture and household items to provide to students who have been temporarily displaced by Hurricane Katrina and who will be continuing their studies at The University of Iowa until they can return to their home institutions.

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

UI Contacts: Christine Scheetz (356-1048, christine-scheetz@uiowa.edu) – Director, Office of Community and Patient Relations (356-1200)

Tom Walljasper (384-7353, tom-walljasper@uiowa.edu) – Office of Community and Patient Relations

Charles Helms, M.D. (356-1570, charles-helms@uiowa.edu) – Medical – see Carver College of Medicine, above

On Friday, Sept. 2, faculty and staff filled a large truck in front of the Hospital with bottled water, and other supplies, which was then transferred to two semi-trucks being filled at Coral Ridge mall by a local radio station. In addition, more than \$15,000 was collected for the relief fund.

Faculty, staff, patients, their families, other UI staff members, and local community members collected approximately 45 pallets of bottled water, diapers, cleaning supplies and other goods for a UIHC-sponsored donation drive on September 2. The drive also raised more than \$21,000, an

amount matched by the Lowe's Corporation, enabling UIHC to make a donation to the American Red Cross that totaled \$42,000. The Office of Community and Patient Relations (8JCP) continues to accept cash and checks to the American Red Cross to help the people of the Gulf Coast region.

As part of the state and federal disaster planning organizations it belongs to, UI Hospitals and Clinics has committed to accepting patients from the hurricane area, as well as sending health care personnel and others as requested.

More than 120 UIHC specialists, including nurses, physicians, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, and many others, have volunteered to assist hurricane evacuees. Leaders at UI Hospitals and Clinics remain in constant communication with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), which is coordinating the state's response to the Gulf Coast disaster. The UI volunteers are currently on call to respond to directives from IDPH.

University Hygienic Laboratory

UI Contact: University Hygienic Laboratory (335-4500, <http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/contact/index.html>)

The University Hygienic Laboratory began screening newborns from Louisiana on September 8, and will continue to do so until the screening lab in New Orleans has returned to working conditions.

The lab is also prepared to offer expertise in water testing and bringing water supplies back on line, based on experience with the Iowa and Midwest floods of 1993.

Office of the Vice President for Research

UI Contact: Meredith Hay (335-2119, meredith-hay@uiowa.edu)

Vice President Meredith Hay has offered to work with the AAU to provide displaced faculty members with laboratory space and access to facilities on a case-by-case basis.

Office of the Vice President for Student Services

UI Contact: Belinda Marner (335-3557, belinda-marner@uiowa.edu)

The Office of the Vice President for Student Services is coordinating efforts of student groups seeking ways to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. They are providing referrals to students who contact them due to financial difficulties (e.g., if their families are suffering as a result of the hurricane). Vice President Phillip Jones is working with Phil Kutzko regarding the outreach to AGEP and SROP students (see above).

Vice President Phillip Jones has compiled a list of University of Iowa students who list Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama as their permanent residence and is contacting these students to ascertain any needs.

Vice President Jones sponsored the Women's Resource and Action Center donation drive that collected furniture, small appliances, toiletries, and other items for displaced students attending the UI.