



## Disaster Resilient Universities® (DRU) Overview

In 2000, six schools participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Resistant Universities pilot initiative. The intent of FEMA's initiative was to support university efforts to reduce and manage vulnerability to hazards. The pilot initiative yielded a grant program and a how-to guide focused on mitigation and risk reduction. The grant program was short-lived—there was only one funding cycle, and fewer than 20 schools receiving grant funding for campus mitigation planning.

When FEMA cut the funding, several institutions of higher education kept the core concept of the DRU alive. They saw the need for a practical, common-sense approach to disaster planning on their campuses. In 2005, after a national meeting of DRU campuses at the University of Washington, the University of Oregon started the Disaster Resilient Universities® (DRU) listserv. The listserv quickly became the cornerstone of the DRU Network® and served as a multidisciplinary, practitioner-based communication resource. The goal was simple: facilitate open communication, discussion, and resource sharing among university/college practitioners charged with making America's campuses more disaster resilient.

As of December 2015 the DRU listserv had more than 1400 members representing approximately 800 institutions. Today, the DRU Listserv provides a simple resource for increased communication, coordination, and collaboration among universities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, operate during, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other crises.

The DRU Network® and concept has continued to evolve over time. Key to the evolution was the formation of the University & College Caucus (UCC) under the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). The DRU Network® and UCC have developed a number of tools and resources on a peer-to-peer multidisciplinary basis. These include:

- UCC annual workshops and webinar series;
- Practitioner-based training and course development;
- Standards & resilience crosswalk tool;
- Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for Higher Education;
- University Incident Management Teams (IMT) concept and development;
- National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA); and
- National DRU Incident tracking and support

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, DRU members helped affected Institutions of Higher Education via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process and their own expertise. The DRU Network® also provided real-time data to the U.S. Department of Education on campus closures and other issues. In 2015, the DRU and UCC members developed first National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA) for all intuitions of higher education to establish more formal partnerships between schools and other mutual-aid groups to help IHEs develop simple, open-source data-collection tools that assess the effects of disasters.

Creating a disaster-resilient campus is an exceedingly complex problem. It requires communication, coordination, cooperation, and a focused effort from the entire university, including the executive leadership, faculty/researchers, staff, students, and external partners. The DRU Network® helps this effort because its interdisciplinary approach leverages members' knowledge and expertise to provide technical assistance and resources.

## **DRU and UCC Resources and Activities Summaries**

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### **Disaster Resilient Universities (DRU) Network**

<http://emc.uoregon.edu/content/disaster-resilient-universities>

DRU's mission is to facilitate open communication, discussion, and resource-sharing among university/college practitioners charged with making campuses more disaster-resilient. Sharing information helps campuses mitigate, prepare for, respond to, operate during, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other crises.

### **Disaster Resilient Universities (DRU) Listserv**

The DRU network has grown to over 1400 members at more than 800 institutions of higher education. The University of Oregon Emergency Management and Continuity Program administers the program.

### **DRU Community of Practice and Repository**

<https://communities.firstresponder.gov/>

“DHS First Responder Communities of Practice” is a professional networking, collaboration, and communication platform created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate. This vetted community of members focuses on emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and other homeland security issues. A DRU group shares information and technical resources (such as templates or examples, After Action reports, lessons learned, and best practices or case studies); it also engages in discussions and dialogues related to the profession and emerging issues around campus emergency management.

### **International Association of Emergency Managers – University & Colleges Caucus (IAEM-UCC)**

<http://www.iaem.com/committees/College/index.htm>

Higher education institutions have special considerations when preparing students, faculty, staff, and visitors to mitigate, respond to, operate during, and recover from all types of emergencies. The Universities & Colleges Caucus (UCC) gives a voice to emergency managers in higher education institutions and ensures that governments and industries address the emergency-management issues that college and university campuses face.

### **UCC Annual Workshop and Webinar Series**

The UCC hosts an annual two-day workshop for emergency-management professionals in a higher education. A capstone of the workshop is the “World Café,” during which practitioners share information on current and pressing issues they face on their campuses. The UCC also hosts periodic webinars on higher-education emergency management, business continuity “hot topics,” and best practices.

## **Training & Course Development**

UCC members were on the HEOA/Clery Act negotiated rulemaking team and also worked with FEMA to introduce the Incident Command for higher education institutions (ICS-100.HE) course. Following this, FEMA, with the UCC's help, built a series of courses aimed at campus resilience.

- “Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education (L-363)” is a three-day course designed to teach campus teams the foundations of emergency planning, risk assessment, and overall preparedness and readiness.
- “Emergency Planning for Campus Executives (G-367)” is a modular, two-hour course designed for senior executives at higher education institutions.
- “Executive Seminar: Prevention of, Response to, and Recovery from Campus Emergencies (MGT-324)” is a two-day overview of prevention, response, and recovery activities for college and university campuses.

## **Emergency Management Accreditation Pilot Program**

UCC is leading the effort to bring the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP, an internationally recognized emergency-management standard and accreditation system) to colleges and universities. The UCC worked with EMAP on a pilot project for accrediting institutions of higher education that have campus-based, emergency-management programs. Pilot assessments of four institutions started in October 2011 and concluded in August 2012. We are proud to announce that the EMAP program is now open to any college/university globally.

## **Standards & Resilience Crosswalk Tool**

<http://www.frameworked.org/crosswalk/>

The DRU/UCC standards working group, which includes emergency management, risk management, business continuity, and higher-education administration professionals, has been developing a crosswalk tool based upon industry standards for emergency management, risk management, and business continuity. The intent is to help campuses navigate the complex world of standards, help them understand the common ground among various standards, and determine which standards best fit their institutions.

## **University Incident Management Teams (IMT)**

The DRU/UCC has conducted preliminary background research, including a survey on the types of incident response teams that campuses use, and it has collected information regarding how campuses develop, use, and support incident management teams.

## **National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA)**

Similar to other mutual aid agreements, the National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement is a source for providing and/or receiving assistance. Participating in multiple agreements provides institutes of higher education with flexibility when evaluating the most effective and efficient means of obtaining resources during an emergency. Unlike typical government mutual aid agreements, NIMAA membership can include both public and private institutions. The NIMAA is a mutual aid agreement that is complementary to other mutual aid agreements / programs, and works in cooperation with other plans.

## Business & Research Continuity

The UCC has a business and research continuity working group to explore the issues campuses face in maintaining operations during a crisis and to develop best practices for other campuses.

## Professional Association Engagement

The UCC is actively engaged with other professional associations, such as the International Association College Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), Campus Safety Health and Environmental Association (CSHEMA), University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA), and others.

## Partnerships

The DRU/UCC is engaged with other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emergency Management Institute, National Center for Domestic Preparedness and Training, National Center for Campus Public Safety, and many more.

## Contact Information:

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#### ***National DRU Network Administrator***

National Disaster Resilient Universities® Network  
<http://emc.uoregon.edu/content/disaster-resilient-universities>

#### ***Advisory Board Member***

National Center for Campus Public Safety  
U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance  
<http://www.nccpsafety.org>

#### ***Past-Chairperson***

International Association of Emergency Managers - Universities & Colleges Caucus  
<http://tinyurl.com/iaem-ucc>

The DRU Network and UCC are also on Posterous, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and DHS First Responders Communities of Practice.



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