



# Innovative Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Curriculum in Homeland Security at a HBCU.

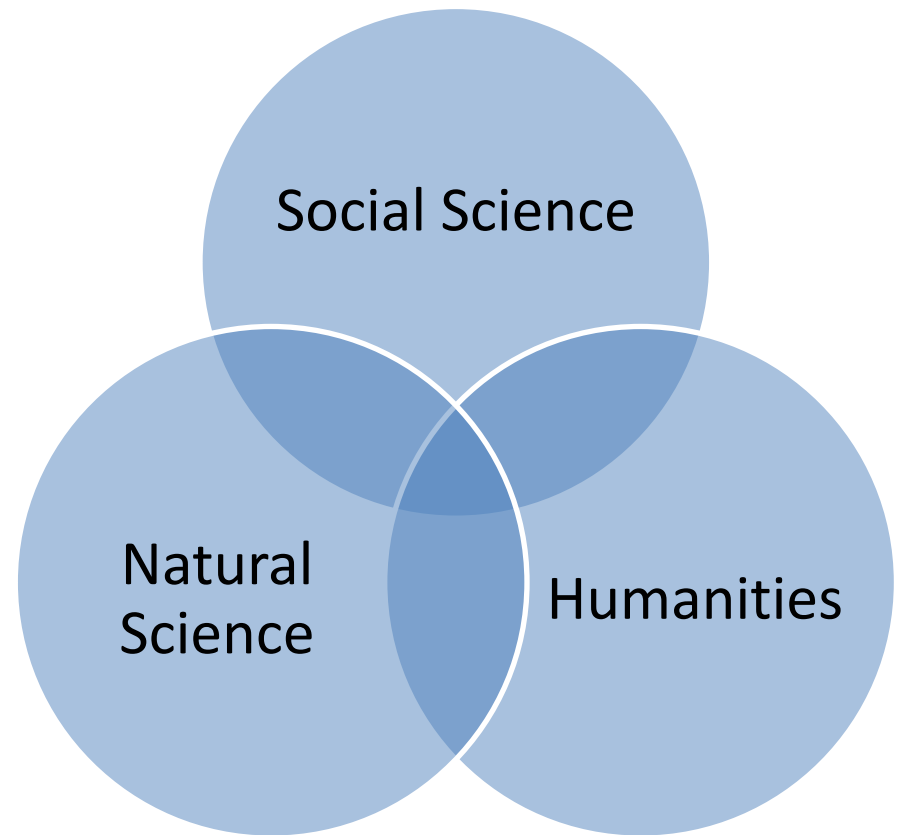
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Tougaloo College

**COASTAL RESILIENCE CENTER**

*A U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence*

# Introduction

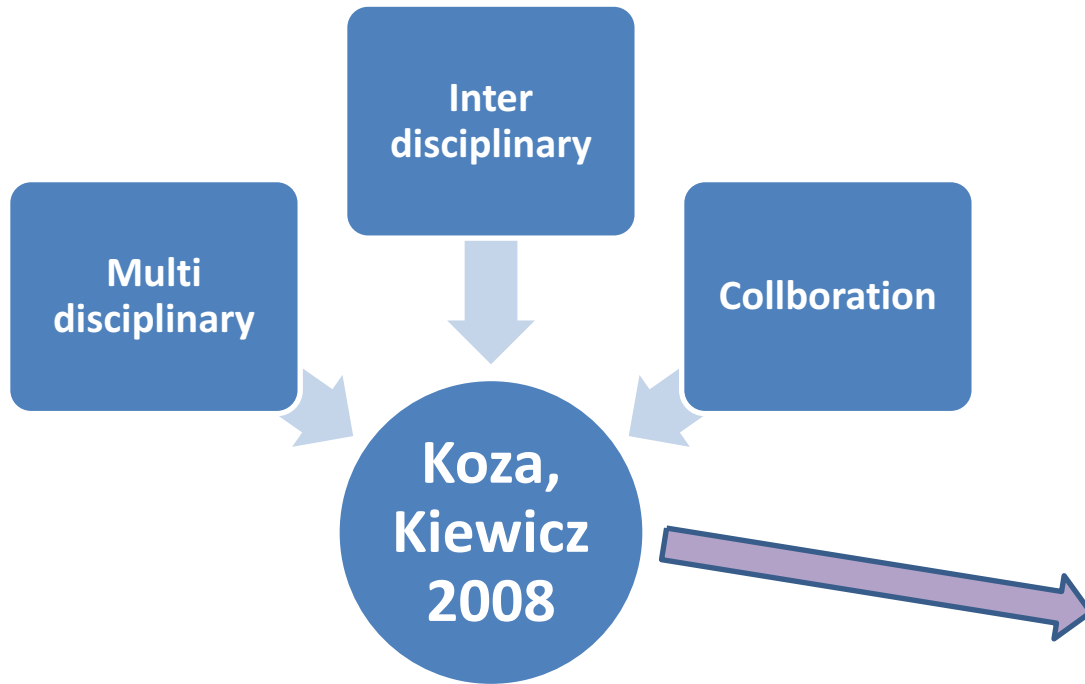
- Undergraduate curriculum is designed in a discrete disciplinary package—such as Sociology, Economics, Biology, Chemistry.
- In reality, today's society faces issues which transcend the boundaries of academic specialization.
- Interdisciplinary approach provides:
  - Students with an opportunity to see how different fields of knowledge can converse with and inform one another.
  - Interdisciplinary education focuses on more than one discipline.



# Intro (Cont.)

- Matsagouras (2002), the interdisciplinary approach favors a holistic overview of all things creative, initiative, and imaginative.
- Karri (2009) highlighted the key points of interdisciplinary curriculum:
  - A range of faculty with diverse training providing students with a breadth of integrated knowledge in interdisciplinary field of inquiry
  - Students and faculty engage in collaborative activities related to problems or topics that cut across disciplinary boundaries
  - Programs require collaborative support for faculty and student from across the institution.
  - The university is a network of collaborative and dependent efforts towards knowledge production

# Literature Review



# Literature (Cont.)

**O'Connell and Ditzonzo  
[2006], Stein [2009],  
Glynn [1994])**

**Interdisciplinary Training  
=> Effective Advocacy**

**Role of non-lawyer  
professionals  
Underlying theories and  
Assumptions**

**Kiddy and Woodward  
(2013)**

**studio art printing class  
with Latin American  
history**

**Student/faculty outside  
comfort zone,  
Interdisciplinary  
understanding**

# Impact on Students

**Beyond discipline, open  
and adapt to change  
(Knight et al., 2012)**

**Inter-disciplinary training  
prepares better  
employable students  
(Brandon and Knapp ,1999)**

**Student  
Benefits**

**MSU Chance at Childhood  
program graduates better  
prepared (Kozakiewicz ,  
2008)**

**Better job prospects,  
salaries earned and  
effectiveness as  
professionals**

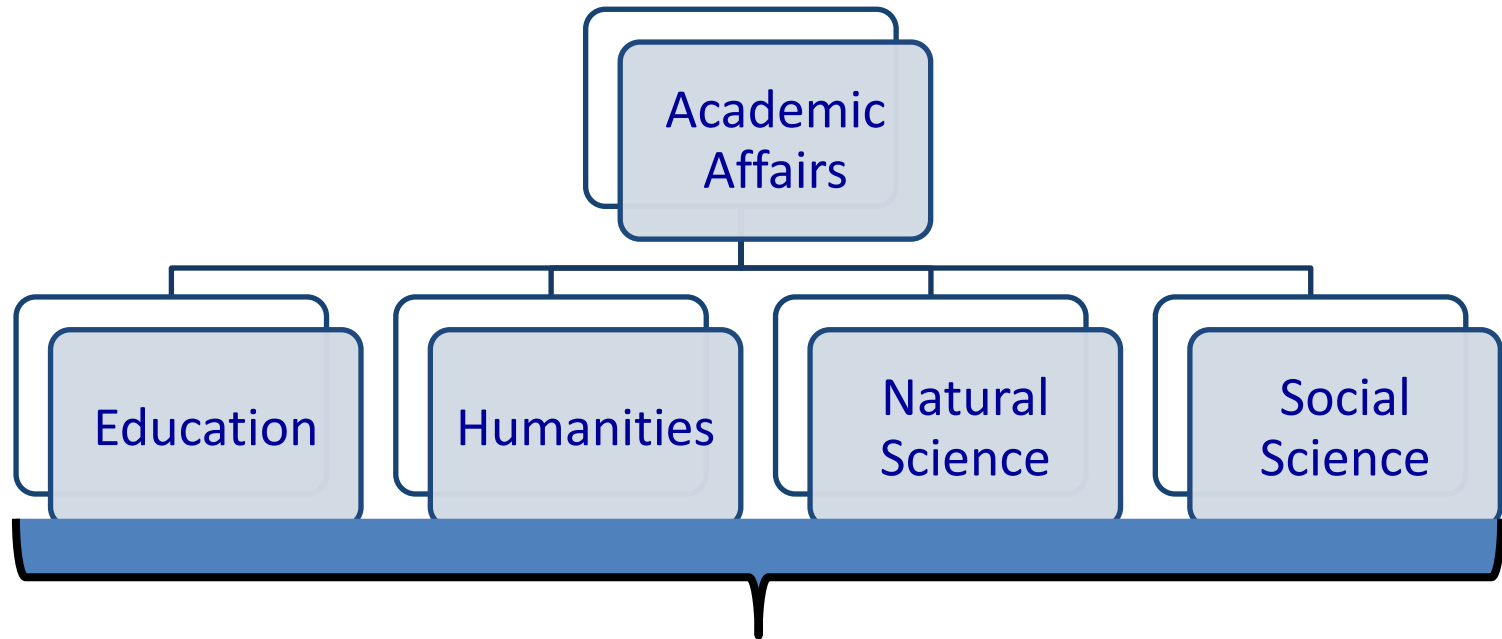
# Tougaloo College



- Tougaloo College is a private, coeducational, historically black, liberal arts institution
- Founded in 1869, Tougaloo College is situated on 500 acres of land located on the northern edge of Jackson, Mississippi.
- The campus includes a Historic District, which is comprised of ten buildings, each of which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

# Existing Program

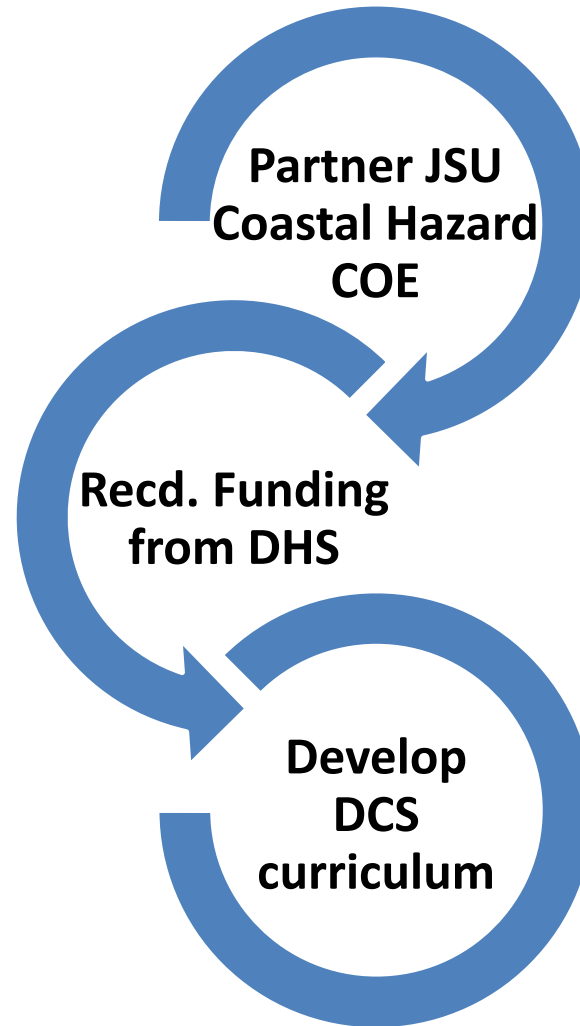
- **15 academic areas**
- **6 concentrations**



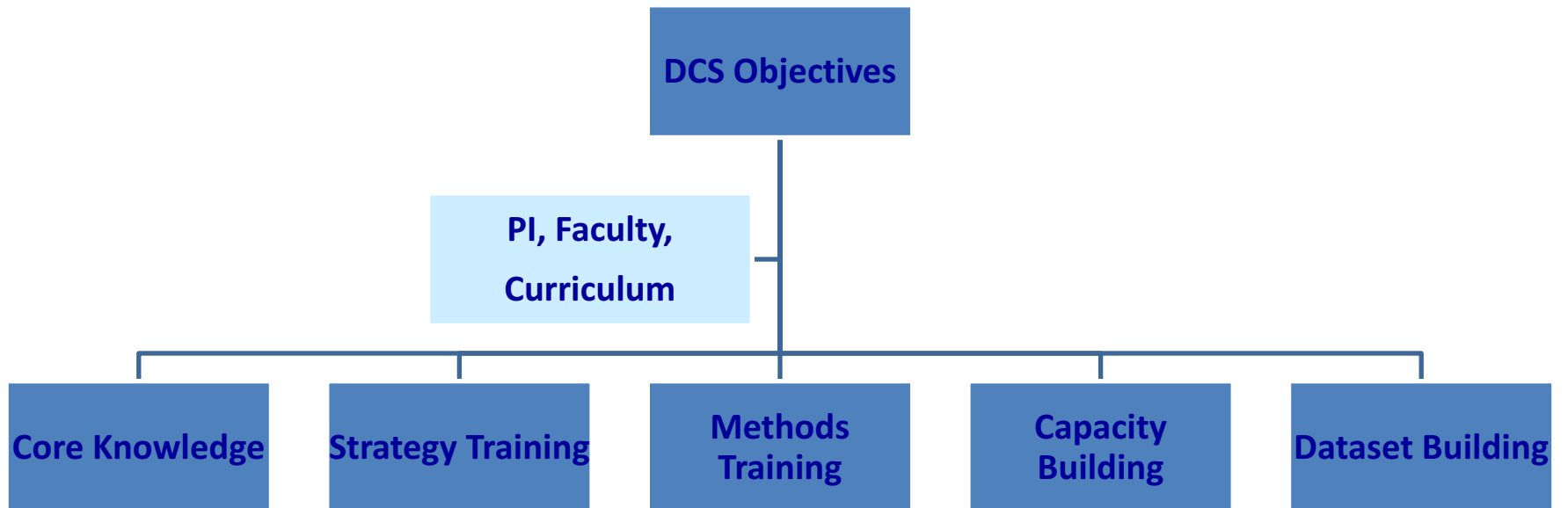
**Interdisciplinary Minor Disaster Coastal Studies (DCS)  
Housed in Sociology**



# Program Development



# Objectives



# Year 1 to Year 3 Progress

## Year 1

- Solicit course development proposal from faculty
- 4 courses approved
- 7 courses Developed

## Year 2

- 3 courses offered
  - SOC 320 B, 23 students
  - SOC 320 C, 20 students
  - SOC 320 D, 42 students

Formative assessment  
done by College

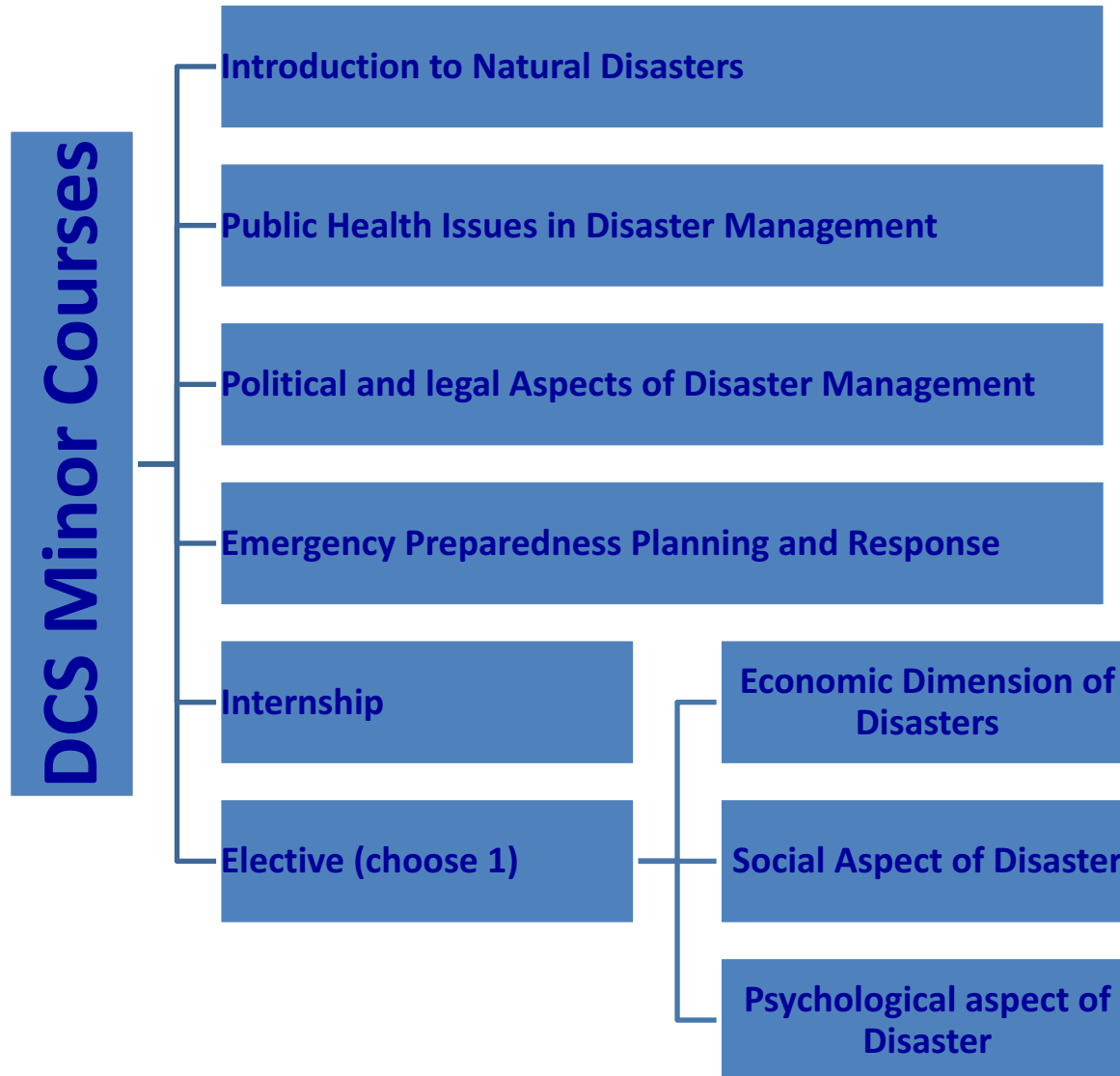
## Year 3

- DCS Minor Approved
  - 6 courses, 18 credits
  - 40 hour internship included

# DCS Program

- Disaster & Coastal Studies (DCS) offers an interdisciplinary approach from a social science perspective about the nature of natural disasters in the coastal zone; social aspects of catastrophes or disasters; and organizational issues inherent in preparedness, planning, and managing all forms of disasters.
- The minor is designed to prepare students to meet the workforce demands for emergency preparedness agencies and organizations, as well as advanced studies in the field of Disaster Management.
- Furthermore, the program allows faculty and students to engage in cross-disciplinary research.

# DCS Minor Courses





Output



# Student faculty Research



DCS summer research at University of Delaware



DCS students present their research to then Secretary of HS, Mr. Jeh Johnson



DCS Students with Admiral Paul Zunkuft, President Dr. Beverly Hogan, and Faculty

DCS students with Admiral Paul Zunkuft, TC faculty & President Beverly Hogan.



DCS student researchers with faculty mentors

# Engagement with Stakeholders





# Neighborhood Outreach Training Initiative



# Future Direction

Incorporating Professional Certificate Program within the General Education Curriculum (6-12 credit hours )

- ❖ Goal- develop professional skills- students not attending graduate school can join the workforce
- ❖ Working with local stake holders to redesign the current DCS minor – students receive skills and training to work in those agencies.

QUESTIONS ?

THANK YOU

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