

Please state the central research question(s) this project seeks to explore or answer.

(1) How prepared are colleges and universities for natural disasters? (2) What are factors that predict perceptions of organizational resilience among auxiliary services professionals? (3) Considering the equity implications of natural disasters, to what extent is disaster planning perceived as procedurally just by women and People of Color?

Proposal Summary (200 word limit)

The purpose of this study is to provide insight into how colleges and universities can cultivate disaster resilience to extreme weather events. For this project, I will partner with the National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) to survey administrators and measure their campus' preparedness and ability to adapt to natural disasters. The project is guided by three research questions: (1) How prepared are colleges and universities for natural disasters? (2) What are factors that predict perceptions of organizational resilience among auxiliary services professionals? (3) Considering the equity implications of natural disasters, to what extent is disaster planning perceived as procedurally just by women and People of Color? will use organizational resilience and procedural justice conceptual frameworks to inform data collection and analysis.

Prior literature tends to focus on how campuses go about reducing waste or carbon footprints or is limited to an exploratory qualitative study of a single campus. This study will not only collect multi-institutional data, it will examine whether certain aspects of organizational resilience framework are more common on higher education campuses and whether campuses are preparing for crises in ways that are procedurally just. This project will lead to implications for supporting colleges, universities, and students.