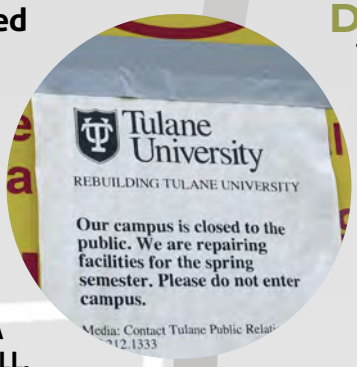
2005–2006: The Year Everything Changed

A single year reshaped Tulane's campus, academic structure, and future. The School of Liberal Arts emerged from that period of reinvention.



August 29, 2005

HURRICANE KATRINA MAKES LANDFALL.
Tulane suspends operations as floodwaters and widespread damage force the University to close for the fall semester.

Fall 2005

A CAMPUS DISPERSED.
Students, faculty, and staff scatter across the country. Classes are canceled for the semester while the University assesses damage and considers its future.



December 8, 2005

THE RENEWAL PLAN IS ANNOUNCED.
President Scott Cowen unveils a sweeping plan to rebuild Tulane academically as well as physically.

Key decisions:
- Newcomb and Tulane Colleges become **Newcomb-Tulane College** .
- Newcomb Institute established.
- Faculty reorganized into the **School of Liberal Arts** and the **School of Science & Engineering**.
- Public service graduation requirement created.

January 17, 2006

STUDENTS RETURN.
Classes resume with approximately **93% of Tulane students returning** despite the disruption caused by Katrina.

July 1, 2006

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED.
The School of Liberal Arts officially launches as Tulane's home for the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.

August 28, 2006

FIRST DAY THE SCHOOL OFFICIALLY EXISTED WITH STUDENTS.





May 19, 2007

THE FIRST GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS CROSS THE COMMENCEMENT STAGE AT THE NEW ORLEANS ARENA.
NBC "Nightly News" anchor, Brian Williams, delivers the commencement address.

20 Years Later

32 Departments & Programs

400+ Faculty

More than 15,000 majors prepared for their future through interdisciplinary liberal arts education.

