



Scholars Application Packet

The McNair Scholars Program at the University of Oregon is one of 151 programs at colleges and universities across the country and part of a group of federal programs known collectively as TRiO. Named in honor of Ronald E. McNair, an African-American astronaut killed when the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded, the McNair Program helps qualified undergraduate students prepare for admission to doctoral programs and the successful pursuit of PhD degrees. **Eligible students** must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are also **either**:

(1) First-generation college students who are also low-income.

OR

(2) Students from groups historically under-represented in US higher education (Black/African American, Hispanic, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Native Pacific Islander).

Additionally, applicants to the UO McNair Scholars Program **must**:

- Have earned at least 75 undergraduate credits, but not have a bachelor's degree.
- Have completed (or be enrolled in) some upper division course work in the major.
- Have a GPA that is competitive for entry into graduate school.
- *Be committed to success and the pursuit of graduate education.*

Housed in the University Teaching and Learning Center, the UO McNair program offers intensive support for students as they complete their undergraduate degrees and apply to graduate schools. That **support includes**:

- Substantial research stipends
- Tuition-based scholarships
- Assistance with presentations
- Assistance with graduate school applications
- Travel to conferences and prospective graduate schools
- Assistance with mentor-guided research
- Support for research expenses
- Assistance with writing
- Access to application/enrollment incentives

Applications are available on-line <<http://mcnair.uoregon.edu>> or at the TLC office, 68 PLC.

To apply for the UO McNair Scholars Program, a student must submit an application that includes:

- Completed forms (including signatures) that are part of this application packet.
- Responses to the personal statement questions.
- Transcripts of **all** college level work (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- Two **academic** letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member within the major).

Priority application deadline: Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

Submit applications to: University Teaching and Learning Center, 68 Prince Lucian Campbell Hall (PLC).

For more information, contact Dr. Gail Unruh, McNair Director, at 541-346-2182, the University Teaching and Learning Center at 541-346-3226, or visit the McNair web site at <<http://mcnair.uoregon.edu>>.

**Workshop topics include:**

- Using technology
- Effective use of the library
- Finding funding for graduate school
- GRE preparation and practice
- Applying to graduate school
- Writing personal statements
- Using PowerPoint®

Seminars and classes include:

- Academic research
- Academic writing
- Presentations and publication
- Culture of graduate school

University and Graduate School support includes:

- Scholarships
- Stipends for summer internship
- Summer housing allowance
- Graduate Funding materials
- Academic advising
- Tutoring and academic support
- Faculty mentors
- Peer and professional support groups
- Travel to McNair and professional conferences
- Travel to prospective graduate schools

Support beyond graduation may include:

- Fee waivers for graduate school application
- Graduate scholarships



Scholars Application



Date: _____

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Student ID: _____ SSN: _____

Credits Earned: _____ GPA: _____ Major: _____

Expected BA/BS Date: _____ Advisor: _____ Career Goal: _____

Local Address:

_____ (Street)

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Local Phone: _____

Email: _____

Permanent Address:

_____ (Street)

_____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Permanent Phone: _____

Occupant name, if not your own: _____

Demographic Information:

Birth date: _____

Sex Female Male

Ethnicity Hispanic Yes No

Race (Please indicate personal identity.)

American Indian Yes No

Alaska Native Yes No

Black or African American Yes No

Asian Yes No

Native Hawaiian Yes No

Native Pacific Islander Yes No

White Yes No

Citizenship (check one)

US Citizen

Permanent Resident

Card number: _____

Check all that apply:

Participant in UO program:

PathwayOregon

TRIO SSS Program

Ctr. Multicultural Acad. Excellence

Honors College

Student Athlete

Non-Oregon Resident (out-of-state tuition)

Parent Ages of Children _____

Transfer Student # of Credits _____

Degree Awarded (if applicable)

Other colleges attended _____

Prior TRIO Participant at _____

GED graduate Year _____

Not enrolled in school for five or more years.

Veteran Receiving VA benefits

Currently working _____ hours per week

Work study

Eligibility as a First-Generation College Student

Eligibility for McNair may depend in part on the level of parental education. You are a first generation student if: neither parent (natural or adoptive) earned a bachelor's degree before your 18th birthday, **or** you resided with and received support from only one parent who did not earn a bachelor's degree before you were 18.

Parent's Educational Background	Parent/Guardian 1		Parent/Guardian 2 (if applicable)	
Did she or he graduate from high school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the parent/guardian attend college?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did she or he earn a four year college degree?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brief explanation of unusual circumstances:				

Based the definition and my answers above, I am a first-generation college student.

Student signature _____

Date _____

Financial Eligibility

Federal TRiO programs seek to increase opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds, and federal law stipulates that **taxable income** may not exceed 150% of the federally defined poverty line. Consequently, the law requires TRiO programs to verify the financial eligibility of applicants. Your financial aid application (FAFSA) on file with the university may not provide the information we need to comply with the law. To avoid unnecessary delays in your application, please complete the remainder of this form to help us determine your eligibility for TRiO services.

Verification requirements for TRiO vary depending on whether students are **independent** or **dependent**. Please check 1 **or** 2 to determine how to best determine your eligibility status.

_____ 1. I am an **independent student** (typically age 24 or older, married, or emancipated; parental income is not reported on the FAFSA). I will complete and sign **Part A** in the **Taxable Income Table** below.

- **or** -

_____ 2. I am a **dependent student** (parental income is reported on the FAFSA). I will complete and sign **Part A** in the **Taxable Income Table** below, **and** my parents will complete and sign **Part B**.

Information for the 2015 tax year:

Part A – Student		Part B – Parent/s	
State of Residence:	Total # of Exemptions*:	State of Residence:	Total # of Exemptions*:
Taxable Income [†] (if married, include spouse's income): \$		Taxable Income [†] for custodial parent/guardian or combined parental income: \$	
_____ Student Name (please print)		_____ Parent/Guardian Name (please print)	
_____ Student Signature		_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	
_____ Date		_____ Date	

* **Exemptions:** Form 1040, line 6D; or Form 1040A, line 6D.

† **Taxable Income:** Form 1040, line 43; or Form 1040A, line 27; or Form 1040 EZ line 6.

Copies of Financial Eligibility section are available online or in our office and may be submitted separately.

Signed copies of the appropriate federal tax forms may substitute for Parts A and B above.

Agreements for McNair Program Access and Services

I understand that the McNair Program professional staff has access to the following information:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Admissions data | Registration information |
| Transcripts and grades | Financial Aid verification |
| Disability documentation | Data updates |
| Progress reports from professors, counselors, and the Registrar's Office | |

I support this information sharing and understand that, before being admitted to McNair, information from the above sources will be used only to certify my eligibility. Once selected for McNair, I understand that the program has an educational need to know and may use information from the above sources to help me meet educational and program goals. I also understand that admitted students are committed to earning first a bachelor's degree, then pursuing doctoral degrees, and using the resources available to them for strengthening skills necessary to accomplish those goals. I am committed to those goals and will use McNair Program support to help me prepare effectively.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

The UO McNair Scholars Program posts student photographs and work (research abstracts and papers) on the websites for McNair and the University Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). Our purpose is to help showcase students and their work. Also, some photographs may be used on a rotational basis to help personalize our entry hallway or our main office. Additionally, the University of Oregon periodically takes photographs or videos of school classes, events, and other functions reflecting student life at the University. In some instances, the University may wish to publish those photographs or videos on its websites, in school catalogs, in the school alumni magazine, or in other publicity materials that may be viewed by the general public. Under some circumstances, those photographs, videos, or written work may be considered educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), and therefore cannot be used without the prior written consent of the students whose work or whose image (photo or video) appears in published formats.

By signing below, you are granting the McNair program, TLC, and the University of Oregon permission to use your photograph, appearance in a video, or your written work for the purposes outlined above.

Name (print) _____ **email** _____ **Phone** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Future Contact

The US Department of Education evaluates all McNair Programs to determine whether the goals of the program are being met. All McNair programs must report the educational attainment of Scholars after they have completed their bachelor's degrees. Consequently, I agree to provide reliable information about my post-graduate studies and employment to this McNair office. Further, I agree to provide a reliable contact (someone who will know how to reach me after I leave the UO). Finally, I grant permission for UO McNair staff to secure enrollment and progress records from institutions I attend for graduate study. I understand that such information gathering is necessary for the Program to continue to fulfill its duties both to McNair Scholars and the Federal government.

Name _____

Reliable contact person Address _____

(Person likely to know how to reach me after I leave the UO)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____



Personal Statements

Attach answers to the following questions:

1. *Statement of Goals:*

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them.” – Ronald E. McNair

Please write a carefully crafted essay of approximately 500 words that describes your educational goals (past, present, and future) in relation to Ronald E. McNair’s words quoted above. Describe any obstacles you have overcome, stretches you wish to make, challenges you foresee, and plans you have to meet those challenges. Be sure to communicate how committed you are to achieving those goals.

2. *Statement of Need:*

You may have discussed some personal accomplishments above, but McNair participation is not simply based on prior achievements. We also are interested in the extent to which you need and envision yourself taking advantage of the program resources (see list, p. 2). Please write a couple of paragraphs to the Program Director outlining how the McNair Program and its services would meet your particular needs and educational goals.

Considerations for Letters of Recommendation:

- Please select people who can speak to your **academic performance** and to experiences that demonstrate the likelihood of your success in graduate school.
- Provide each person with a brief description of the McNair Scholars Program (such as a copy of the first page of this application packet) so that each will know something of the scope and goals of the program and will be able to convey the ways you are an excellent candidate for the program.
- One letter must be written by a faculty member in your field of study. If you are a transfer student, a letter from a faculty member from an institution you attended prior to the UO will be acceptable, but you should still strive to have a letter from a UO faculty member.
- Faculty members who wish to submit hard copies of letters should use department stationery and sign the flaps of sealed envelopes.
- Faculty members may send confidential letters electronically using electronic letterhead (PDF preferred).

Letters (and all other application materials) should be sent to:

G.Q. Unruh, PhD, Director
 McNair Scholars Program
 1213 University of Oregon
 Eugene, OR 97403-1213
gqunruh@uoregon.edu

Privacy Act

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Department of Education is authorized to collect information to implement the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair) under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1964, as amended. The Department receives and maintains personal information on participants in the McNair program to administer the program, including tracking and evaluating participant progress. Providing the information on this form, including a social security number is voluntary; failure to disclose a SSN will not result in the denial of any right, benefit or privilege to which the participant is entitled. The information is collected on this form will be retained in the program files and may be released to other Department officials in the performance of their official duties.