



# Thinking about Graduate School?

## JOIN THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### Get a Head Start to Get In!

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program provides eligible undergraduates (see reverse) with critical research experiences, preparation for the GRE, mentoring, professional skills, and assistance with the graduate application process. Students who want to go to graduate school to ultimately earn a PhD are our focus.

*As a Scholar, you may be eligible for all of the following:*

#### **SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP & SEMESTER RESEARCH STIPENDS**

##### ***McNair Summer Research Internship:***

- work with a McNair Faculty Mentor as a Research Assistant for eight weeks
- earn an Internship Award (\$2200-\$2800) while you work
- get assistance in paying for additional summer research expenses, if eligible
- weekly class topics: Graduate School Applications; Research; & Presentations
- present your research at local and regional conferences, all expenses paid

##### ***Semester Research:***

- earn "Graduate School Progress Awards" for approved semester research and program participation:  
\$200 (juniors) & \$400 (seniors)

#### **GRE PREPARATION & MATERIALS**

- GRE preparation sessions
- fee waiver for the GRE, if eligible
- access to GRE preparation books
- access to GRE preparation software

#### **MENTORING**

- obtain advising and assistance from faculty and staff mentors

#### **WORKSHOPS & COMMITTEES**

##### ***Attend Workshops:***

- applying to graduate school
- making a successful research presentation
- the graduate school experience
- obtaining graduate school funding
- writing a winning personal statement
- instructors include faculty, staff, graduate students, university administrators, guests

##### ***Join Student Committees:***

- Student Executive Board
- Newsletter Committee
- Event Committee

#### **GRADUATE SCHOOL & APPLICATIONS**

- obtain application fee waivers for over 100 participating schools
- apply for McNair Fellowship opportunities
- take sponsored trips to college fair and visit other campuses
- use of office telephone to contact graduate schools of interest
- apply to independent funding sources
- access to helpful books and articles

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & CONFERENCES**

- attend professional conferences with your Faculty Mentor or Staff Member(s)
- obtain information on professional associations in your field of interest

## **McNAIR EXTRAS**

- get instruction on researching graduate programs and downloading applications from the internet

## **SUPPLIES**

- free photocopying, color and laser printing for sponsored research projects
- free resume paper, folders, CDs, & other materials for sponsored research projects
- computer access and poster paper for research presentations

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

- attend gatherings with McNair Scholars, faculty and staff
- receive reimbursements to attend select cultural events on campus
- attend annual McNair Scholars Program Induction Dinner and Ceremony

## **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

***A) You must meet ONE of the following two criteria:***

- **First Generation & Low-Income**  
**OR**
- **Underrepresented in Doctoral Programs: African-American, Latino, or Native American**

***B) You must be interested in earning a PhD in your area of interest***

***C) You must also:***

- **have a good record of academic achievement (3.0 or greater)**
- **be committed to attending graduate school**
- **be a dedicated hard worker who will work hard to perform at your best**
- **be a US citizen or permanent resident**
- **be a second semester sophomore or a junior (seniors are accepted on a limited basis)**

***D) Your major should be in one of the following areas (see staff for exclusions):***

- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Physical & Mathematical Sciences & Technology
- Foreign Language & Cross-Cultural Studies
- Literature
- Life & Health Sciences
- Historical & Philosophical Studies

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

- ◆ **Read the entire information packet carefully**
- ◆ **Complete the entire application**  
(with reference information, essay, and financial information)
- ◆ **The Program Staff will contact you for an interview**
- ◆ **Note: Do not apply if you cannot participate in scheduled program events**

**McNair Scholars Program**  
**220 Norton Hall, North Campus**  
**(716) 645-5478**  
<http://ubetc.org/mcnairscholars>

## *Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program* *University at Buffalo*

In 1986, the U.S. Congress authorized the establishment of The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The McNair Program is designed to prepare highly talented undergraduates, principally those from low income backgrounds and families with no previous college graduates or underrepresented minorities, to pursue doctoral degrees and to increase the number of individuals from these backgrounds on college and university faculties. The program addresses the serious shortage of doctoral recipients among these groups of Americans.

The McNair Program is built upon the implicit assumption that doctoral education for the nation's low income and underrepresented groups is linked, at least in part, to establishing a pipeline at the undergraduate level. It assumes further that a solid provision of tools of inquiry and study during the undergraduate years will significantly increase graduate school admission, retention and graduation rates among these talented groups of students.

The McNair Program is named in honor of Ronald E. McNair, the African American *Challenger* astronaut, who came from a low income family in South Carolina. He graduated magna cum laude in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976, at the age of 26. Ronald McNair was the first in his family to graduate from college, let alone to earn a Ph.D. His academic and subsequent career successes, dimmed only by his untimely death, serve as a beacon to the current generation of college students who, for many reasons, may feel that graduate education in general and the doctoral degree in particular are inaccessible.

There are currently over 180 McNair programs across the country. The University at Buffalo's McNair Program has at least 30 students each year and selects students in various majors that lead to doctoral study. During the Fall and Spring semesters, we bring special speakers to campus. We offer free GRE preparatory classes as well as workshops to assist students in achieving their goal of attending graduate school. Scholars are able to participate in graduate school trips and present research at professional conferences. There are faculty and graduate student mentors available to provide even more support. McNair Scholars also have access to supplies germane to research and presentations. Students are encouraged to borrow computer laptops during the academic year. There are other supplies available for student presentations.

In addition to our regular semester programs, we sponsor an eight week summer research program for students. Students must conduct research under the direction of a faculty mentor while in the McNair Scholars Program. Upon completion of their summer research program, participants produce an extensive research paper or poster and are strongly encouraged to conduct research throughout the academic year.

The McNair Program also provides its members with graduate school advising in order to better prepare them for all aspects of the process. Also, students are encouraged to bring drafts of their resumes, personal statements, and application forms to the McNair staff for suggestions and improvements.

Many universities across the country waive their graduate school application fees for McNair Scholars. The program's ultimate goal is to support students in whatever way we can to provide for their successful entry and continued success in doctoral programs.



FG  LI  HU

**McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
APPLICATION – Part I**

(Type or Neatly Print All Information)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Person #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation with a Bachelors Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Field of Graduate Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to earn the PhD? Yes No Maybe

College Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA in major: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male  Female

Total credits completed as of today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Citizen of the USA? Yes No Are you a Permanent Resident? Yes No

Are you enrolled in: EOP  SSS  C-STEP  ACE  L-SAMP  ACKER  Other:

Are you enrolled in an Honors Society or Program? Yes  No

If Yes, List Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the University consider you a financially independent student? Yes No

If a Dependent Student, I regularly reside with & receive support from: One Parent  Two Parents

TAXABLE INCOME from most recent federal tax return: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people this income supports (dependents): \_\_\_\_\_

Has your mother, father, or guardian earned a bachelors degree?

Mother: Yes No Father: Yes No Legal Guardian: Yes No

**Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> Page of Application** ➔

**McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**Application**

Which of the following best describes your racial/ethnic group?

- Black (non-Hispanic) \_\_\_\_\_
- White (non-Hispanic) \_\_\_\_\_
- Latino (Hispanic) \_\_\_\_\_
- American Indian/Alaskan Native \_\_\_\_\_
- Asian American/Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_

**A)** I have attached ONE of the following documents to this application:

- 1) Copy of a Signed US or Puerto Rico Income Tax Return Form
- 2) Copy of a Signed Financial Aid Application

**B)** List names and phone numbers of two references (at least one must be from a professor):

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**C)** Attach an essay (2 Pages Maximum) to this application explaining why you want to go to graduate school to earn a PhD. Any personal and academic information you share related to ultimately pursuing doctoral study is of particular interest.

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By signing this application, you are agreeing that all of the information on this application, the contact information page and essay are true and accurate to the best of your knowledge. You are also agreeing to allow University at Buffalo staff to solicit further information as needed from various offices and departments on and off campus. This information will be kept confidential and will only be used as part of selection, membership, and alumni purposes at the University at Buffalo's McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II Family Contact

List **Contact Information** of at least **4 family members** who are not included in this application. (Examples: Aunts, Uncles, Siblings & Cousins)

Full Name	Relationship to Applicant	Complete Mail Address & Email Address	Home & Cell Phone Numbers

**Please return Part I & II of the McNair Application to:**

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program  
University at Buffalo  
220 Norton Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1800

*Applicants are Selected for Interviews on a Continuing Basis - Students are Encouraged to Apply Early*