

The McNair Scholars Program at UMBC

Program Description

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement (McNair Scholars) Program provides experiences that prepare eligible students for graduate education. Annually, McNair Scholars are selected from among eligible UMBC students to participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them to progress towards earning doctoral degrees. Eligible participants are defined as low-income and first-generation college students or are members of groups who are underrepresented in graduate education.

Program Eligibility

UMBC students who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply for the McNair Scholars Program:

- 2.7 GPA or better with sophomore, junior or senior standing
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - First generation college student (neither parent has earned a baccalaureate degree)
- and**
- A low family income level as established by the U.S. Department of Education
- or**
- Member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education

All students who wish to be considered must submit an application to the program office. Faculty, staff and graduate students will review applications, interview applicants and make recommendations to the program director who will make the selections.

Application Deadline

Applications made to the UMBC McNair Scholars Program are accepted on a rolling deadline. They are reviewed annually during the Fall semester.

Program Activities

For each McNair Scholar there are counseling sessions during which goals are set and individual plans are developed for achieving those goals. In addition, scholars attend weekly seminars on negotiating the graduate school process, including selecting a graduate school, writing the personal statement and obtaining financial aid. Non-academic variables, library methodology and making effective research presentations are among the subjects covered in these seminars.

Other program features include:

- A course in research proposal writing
- Orientation visits to research facilities and graduate schools
- Faculty mentoring
- Preparation for graduate school entrance examinations
- Discussions with individuals who have completed their doctoral degrees
- Opportunity to compete for the Summer Research Institute

Please type or print information, and return to:

McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
007 Mathematics/Psychology Building
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250
410-455-3277
Fax: 410-455-1028
www.umbc.edu/mcnair

Application for Participation

I. Applicant Information

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Social Security #: _____ UMBC Student ID #: _____

Local Address: _____

_____ City State Zip Code

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Local/Mobile Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Permanent

Permanent Address: _____

_____ City State Zip Code

Place of Birth: _____
City State Country

UMBC E-mail: _____ Alternate E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: M or F
Month Day Year (Please circle)

Citizenship: ☐ U.S. Citizen ☐ Permanent Resident ☐ Other _____
(If applicable, please provide a photocopy of INS documentation.) (Please Specify)

Ethnicity and Race : 1. Are you Hispanic/Latino?
☐ Yes, Hispanic or Latino (including Spain) If yes, please describe your background. ☐ No

2. Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please indicate how you identify yourself.
(Check one or more and describe your background.)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native (including all Original Peoples of the Americas)
Are you Enrolled? ☐ Yes If yes, please enter Tribal Enrollment Number _____ ☐ No
- ☐ Asian (including Indian subcontinent and Philippines) ☐ Black or African American (including Africa and Caribbean)
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Original Peoples) ☐ White (including Middle Eastern)

Do you have a physical or learning disability for which you need accommodations? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Relation

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Date of Application Submission: _____

II. Family Information

Statement of confidentiality: The information contained in this application is for the purpose of determining the applicant's eligibility for the McNair Scholars Program. Information is treated confidentially.

For financial aid purposes, are you considered dependent or independent? If dependent, complete section A; if independent, complete section B.

A. Dependent Student:

What is the size of your parents' household, including yourself? _____

Did your parents file a federal income tax return for the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what was their **taxable income**? \$ _____ (If no, place a "0" on line for taxable income.)

IRS Form 1040
IRS Form 1040A
IRS Form 1040EZ

B. Independent Students:

What is the size of your household, including yourself, spouse and/or other dependents? _____

Did you file a federal income tax return for the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what was their **taxable income**? \$ _____ (If no, place a "0" on line for taxable income.)

IRS Form 1040
IRS Form 1040A
IRS Form 1040EZ

For purposes of documentation, please attach a photocopy of the appropriate federal income tax form(s) to your application, and if applicable, a copy of your most recent financial aid form. (Acceptable documentation of the latter includes a photocopy of your most recent signed FAFSA form, or award letter from your college or university – these can be unofficial copies printed from your student account.)

Does your family receive assistance from any of the following sources?

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Social Security ☐ Yes ☐ No

Veterans' benefits ☐ Yes ☐ No

Food stamps ☐ Yes ☐ No

Unemployment compensation ☐ Yes ☐ No

Other: _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Specify

Educational Attainment of Mother:

Highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College degree earned, if any ☐ Bachelor's ☐ Master's ☐ Doctorate

Country in which degree was earned: _____

Educational Attainment of Father:

Highest grade completed: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College degree earned, if any ☐ Bachelor's ☐ Master's ☐ Doctorate

Country in which degree was earned: _____

With whom did you regularly reside on your 18th birthday?

☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Both Parents ☐ Guardian

III. Education Information

Are you currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment at UMBC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you have completed one semester of study at UMBC by the end of this semester? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you have completed your sophomore year (59 credits) at UMBC by the end of this semester? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is your projected graduation date? _____
Month Year

What is your current major(s) or area of concentration? _____

What is your minor area of concentration? _____

What is your current college GPA?* Overall _____ Major _____

**Please attach a copy of your current transcript to this application. (You may submit an unofficial transcript.)*

List any previous research experience(s). (Include name of program, institution, year, faculty mentor or advisor.) _____

List the name, course number and credit received for any research course(s) taken to date. _____

List academic and extracurricular awards, honors and scholarships you have received. _____

List academic/campus organizations and activities in which you hold membership or participate. _____

Who first encouraged you to apply for the McNair Scholars Program?

Name Title or Department Phone Number

IV. Additional Requirements for Applicants

A. Recommendations: Attached to this application are three recommendation forms. Two recommendations must be from faculty in your major. Each recommender is requested to send the form **directly to the McNair Scholars Program**. In the space below, please list names, titles, addresses and telephone numbers of your three recommenders.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

B. Personal Statements: Present each statement on a separate sheet of paper and attach to your application packet the following:

1. Proposed Research Project — Summarize, in 50 words or less for each, at least two and no more than three topics you would be interested in researching during the Summer Research Institute. If you have a mentor with whom you will work, please identify him or her.

2. Program Interest — Explain your interest in the UMBC McNair Scholars Program (no more than 300 words), detailing what you would like to gain from participation and how such participation can affect your personal interests and objectives. This statement will be read by staff and faculty members to evaluate your potential participation in the program and to assist in determining a mentor for your research if you do not have one.

My signature below indicates that, to the best of my knowledge, the information given on this application is true and accurate.

Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION, TRANSCRIPT, FINANCIAL AID AND INCOME TAX FORMS TO THE McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

The U.S. Department of Education's approved income limit for a family of _____ is \$ _____.

The family's verified taxable income is \$ _____. Therefore, the student is classified as:

☐ First Generation ☐ Low Income ☐ Underrepresented

Action Recommended: ☐ Accept ☐ Deny ☐ Add to Waiting List

Staff Signature

Date

FOR DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY

Action: ☐ Accept ☐ Deny ☐ Add to Waiting List

Director's Signature

Date

Action: ☐ Accept ☐ Deny ☐ Add to Waiting List

Director's Signature

Date

Student accepted as: ☐ First Generation/Low Income ☐ Underrepresented

McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Recommendation Form

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410-455-3277
Fax: 410-455-1028
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I. This section is to be completed by the applicant.

Graduate Discipline of Interest

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Optional: (This waiver is not required for admission to or receipt of any other services and benefits from the McNair Scholars Program.) All rights of access to this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) as amended, or otherwise, are hereby voluntarily waived.

Signature

Date

II. This section is to be completed by the faculty recommender and returned directly to the McNair Scholars Program at UMBC.

What is your frank appraisal of the applicant's promise as a graduate student and future scholar? What are the applicant's greatest strengths and weaknesses? What is the extent of your acquaintance with the applicant? If you prefer to write a personal letter rather than using the back of this form, please feel free to do so and attach your letter to this form. Thank you for your prompt cooperation.

Summary Evaluation: In comparison with a representative group of students in the same field who have had approximately the same amount of experience and training, how does the applicant rate in the following areas?

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Unable to Assess
Ability to analyze a problem and formulate a solution						
Breadth of knowledge						
Verbal expression skills						
Written expression skills						
Perserverance						
Maturity						
Imagination and creativity						
Potential as a teacher/scholar/researcher						
Self-confidence						
Ability to work with others						
Overall academic potential						

Signature

Title

Department

Name (Please type or print)

Date

Telephone Number

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Ability to work with others						
Overall academic potential						

Signature

Title

Department

Name (Please type or print)

Date

Telephone Number

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Application Process Reminders

Have you...

- ☐ completed your part of the application?
- ☐ provided a photocopy of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) documentation, if necessary?
- ☐ reported your or your family's taxable income and provided the necessary documentation?
- ☐ enclosed recent proof of financial aid?
- ☐ enclosed your transcript or arranged for it to be sent?
- ☐ delivered the recommendation forms?

To whom?	When?	Verified that recommendation is completed and mailed to the McNair Office?
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____	_____

- ☐ included your proposed research statement?
- ☐ included your program interest statement?
- ☐ signed and dated the application?
- ☐ detached and kept this checklist for your files?

Thank you for your interest in the McNair Scholars Program.
We look forward to receiving your application and will notify you about the status of your application.