

Troy University Ronald McNair Scholars Program**Application****Dr. Ronald E. McNair****For more information, contact:**

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Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. While in junior high school, Dr. McNair was inspired to work hard and persevere in his studies by his family and by a teacher who recognized his scientific potential and believed in him. Dr. McNair graduated as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967. In 1971, he graduated magna cum laude and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro). Dr. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in laser physics. His dissertation was titled, "Energy Absorption and Vibrational Heating in Molecules Following Intense Laser Excitation." Dr. McNair was presented an honorary doctorate of Laws from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978, an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, and an honorary doctorate of science from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

While working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory, Dr. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics. His many distinctions include being a Presidential Scholar (1971-74), a Ford Foundation Fellow (1971-74), a National Fellowship Fund Fellow (1974-75), and a NATO Fellow (1975). He was also a sixth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished saxophonist. Because of his many accomplishments, NASA selected him for the space shuttle program in 1978. His first space shuttle mission launched successfully from Kennedy Space Center on February 3, 1984. Dr. Ronald E. McNair was the second African American to fly in space. Two years later he was selected to serve as mission specialist aboard the ill-fated U.S. Challenger space shuttle. He was killed instantly when the Challenger exploded one minute, thirteen seconds after it was launched. Dr. McNair was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. After his death in the Challenger Space Shuttle accident on January 28, 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Their goal was to encourage low-income and first-generation college students, and students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups to expand their educational opportunities by enrolling in a Ph.D. program and ultimately pursue an academic career. This program is devoted to the high standards of achievement inspired by Dr. McNair's life.

Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. —

Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Program Information

The Troy University McNair Scholars Program prepares first generation, economically disadvantaged, and/or underrepresented undergraduates for graduate school by providing them with graduate-level research experience and support for the graduate application process. Beginning the Spring Term/Semester, scholars will attend monthly seminars, which train them in research writing and design, presentations, etc. Scholars are offered intensive advisement throughout the academic year and travel opportunities to present research at conferences and/or campus visits. During the Summer, scholars will engage in a research internship consisting of a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) prep course and a Research and Graduate School Strategies course while conducting research.

Program Eligibility

McNair: All McNair Scholars are selected on a competitive basis. In order to be considered for acceptance into the McNair Scholars program, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- be determined to pursue a Doctoral Program and show potential for success in this pursuit
- have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher by Fall Semester/Term
- be a Troy University student who has a minimum of 30 credit hours completed by the Fall
- be a first-generation AND low-income student, AND/OR a member of an underrepresented minority in doctoral studies. Groups considered to be underrepresented are Hispanic/Latino, African American, Native American/Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

Program Requirements

Students must display a true commitment to pursuing graduate studies. Scholars must agree to participate in ALL of the following: monthly seminars, weekly advisement, workshops, faculty mentored research project, a retreat, summer research design/graduate school prep 101 class, summer GRE prep course, and a McNair research Conferences. Failure to adhere to the attendance and participation requirements is ground for dismissal. Participants are required to maintain a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Program Benefits

Scholars will participate in a summer research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Scholars will be considered for a stipend upon completion of approved research project and all planned scholarly activities. Additionally, select scholars will have opportunities to travel to research conferences to present their research and/or to campuses of universities with graduate programs that fit their research interests. Successful McNair Scholars will have access to McNair-specific graduate school application fee waivers and scholarships/fellowships offered by a variety of universities throughout the country.

Please initial if you have read and understood the program description, eligibility requirements, program requirements and program benefits of the Troy University McNair Scholars Program. _____

Eligibility Questions

The United States Department of Education (DOE) federally funds the Troy University Ronald McNair Scholars Program. The DOE sets eligibility requirements for admission into the program. Your answers to the following questions will help establish your eligibility to participate in the McNair Scholars program. Please answer the questions as best as you can.

How many earned credits do you currently have? _____

What is your Cumulative GPA? _____

When is your estimated graduation Semester/Term and Year)? _____

Do you have a strong desire to earn a doctoral degree? _____

What is your U.S. Citizen Status? _____

With whom did you live prior to your 18th birthday? _____

What is the highest level of education obtained by your parents/guardian?

Mother: _____ Father: _____ Guardian: _____

Select one or more of the following categories to describe yourself:

African American

American Indian/Alaska Native (please list tribal affiliation below in text box)

Asian

Hispanic/Latina (o)

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Other (please list ethnicity in the box)

List tribal affiliation or other _____

What type of financial aid did you receive in the past?

Pell Grant

Student Loan

Work Study

Scholarship (list below)

None of the above

APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Note: Please consider the following to determine your commitment and eligibility for the Troy University Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program before you begin the application/assessment process.

Eligibility Checklist:

The following are requirements for program eligibility:

1. Must be interested in obtaining a Ph.D. degree
2. Must have completed at least 30 credit hours by the Fall Semester/Term
3. Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 by the Fall Semester/Term
4. Must be a first-generation college and/or low in-come college student

If you answered “yes” to all of the above areas, then you are eligible to apply to become a McNair Scholars participant.

Application Checklist:

1. Completed and Signed Application
2. Most Recent Federal Tax Return
3. Unofficial Transcripts
4. Personal Statement
5. Research Proposal Topic
6. Letters of Recommendation (2)

Application

Please provide the following information in order that we may evaluate your application for participation in the McNair Scholars Program. This information will be handled confidentially.

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name

_____ *Last* _____ *First* _____ *M.I.*

Current Address

_____ *City* _____ *State* _____ *Zip Code*

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Alt. Email: _____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Student I.D. Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Employer: _____ Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Work Number: _____

Emergency Contact Information

_____ **Name** _____ **Relationship** _____ **Best Phone Number**

Gender Female Male

Marital Status Single Married Divorced Widowed Separated

Major: _____ Minor: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Classification: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Please indicate if you have participated in any of the programs listed below:

__ Talent Search _____ Educational Opportunity Centers
__ Student Support Services _____ Upward Bound

How did you hear about or how were you referred to the Troy University McNair Program?

__ Student Support Services _____ Center for Student Success
__ Online _____ Professor/Advisor
__ Other _____ Media

APPLICANT ELGIBILITY INFORMATION

Citizenship

In order to qualify for McNair the applicant must be a citizen of a legal resident of the United States.

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes No

If not, please provide explanation: _____

Ethnic Background

In order to qualify for McNair the applicant must be of an underrepresented background

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander |

Educational Level of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Highest Level of Education Completed by Mother/Legal Guardian:

- High School (9-12) Associate's degree Bachelor's degree or beyond

Highest Level of Education Completed by Father/Legal Guardian:

- High School (9-12) Associate's degree Bachelor's degree or beyond

Income Verification

In order to qualify for McNair it must be determined that the applicant is of low-income by reviewing his/her federal taxable income. If the applicant does not meet the requirement for income eligibility, he/she may still be selected if otherwise eligible.

For Financial Aid purposes, are you considered either independent or dependent student?

A dependent student is under the age of 24, single, with no dependents, and no military service.

This section is for dependent students: If you are dependent student, please list your parents or guardians' names:

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Guardian's Name: _____

If you are dependent student, with whom did you live? _____



EXPANDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF YOUR EDUCATION

Troy University Ronald McNair Scholars Program

Application

If you are dependent student, did your parents or guardians file taxes for last year?

Yes No

If you are dependent student, please indicate your parents' last year's Taxable Income (Line 10 on 1040).

If you are dependent, number in household claimed on your parent's income tax: _____

This section is for Independent Students:

If you are independent, did you file taxes for last year? Yes No

If you are an independent student, please indicate your last year Taxable Income (Line 10 on 1040).

What is the number in household claimed on your income tax? _____

Independent and Dependent Students please answer the questions below:

Have you applied for Financial Aid for the current academic year? Yes No

Have you received your Financial Aid Award Notice? Yes No

If neither you nor your parents/guardians filed taxes last year, what was the income source?

NOTE: Documentation of federal taxable income is required in order for a student to be considered for participation in TRiO McNairs Program. Please attach copy of your most recent Federal Tax Return. If you did not file a tax return, you will be asked to sign a "Statement of Non-Filing of Tax Return".

Family Size:

How many people live in your household (include children away in school)? _____

Taxable Income:

Please fill in your CURRENT TAXABLE INCOME on the appropriate line.

Line 10 Form 1040 \$ _____

Circle the applicant's family household size and check the appropriate income option.

FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS CURRENT ANNUAL INCOME LEVELS

Family Size	Less Than	Taxable Income	More Than
1		\$18,210	
2		\$24,690	
3		\$31,170	
4		\$37,650	
5		\$44,130	
6		\$50,610	
7		\$57,090	
8		\$63,570	

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,480 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions. The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount. The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register on January 31, 2018.

APPLICANT TRACKING INFORMATION

The McNair Scholar's Program is responsible for tracking students until the degree is attained.

Permanent Contact Information

Address:

<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Apartment/Unit #</i>	

<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>

Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____	Alt. Email: _____

Please list your username on the following social sites:

Facebook: _____	Instagram: _____
Twitter: _____	Snapchat: _____

Please list contact information of three adult family members or friends not already included in this application.

1. Full Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
2. Full Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
3. Full Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
Home Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

APPLICANT RESEARCH INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO McNAIR

Research Interest(s)

Please briefly explain why you wish to become a Ronald E. McNair scholar and earn a doctorate.

Please check any of the research topic(s) that might interest you while pursuing a doctorate degree.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physics | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Neuroscience | <input type="checkbox"/> Genetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutritional Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacology | <input type="checkbox"/> Physiology | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

If your interest is not listed above, please write it here: _____

Commitment to McNair

The McNair Scholars Program will require a sizeable amount of your time. Please briefly explain why you are willing to participate in a nine-week summer Research Internship (possibly with another institution).

Please describe any family/employment obligations, activities, or organizational involvement that may/will prevent you from fulfilling your commitment to the McNair Scholars Program.

APPLICANT EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Educational Information

Anticipated number of credit hours completed after Fall Semester/Term: _____

Projected graduation date (Semester/Term & Year): _____

Have you taken a Research Methods course in your major? ___ Yes ___ No

If not, do you plan to take a research methods course in the Spring ___ Yes ___ No

Current Major(s): _____

Minor(s) and or Concentration(s): _____

Major Advisor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

If you are a Transfer Student: Please Enter Your Transfer GPA: _____

Transfer School Name: _____

What is your projected date of entrance into graduate school? _____

In what field do you wish to pursue a Ph.D. degree? _____

A copy of your most recent unofficial transcript(s) must be submitted.

APPLICANT PERSONAL STATEMENT/FACULTY MENTOR INFORMATION

Personal Statement

Your research proposal and personal statement are vital parts of the application and are closely reviewed. Please answer the following prompts each on separate sheets of paper. The documents should be typed, double-spaced and in 12pt font. Essays over the word limit may be penalized.

1. In at least 300 words, describe the research interest or research question that will be the basis of your McNair project, as well as your proposed research methods.
2. In at least 300 words, tell us about your academic and career goals, paying special attention to how a Ph.D. is essential to those pursuits.
3. Optional: In at least 200 words, provide any additional information you would like for us to consider.

Faculty Mentor Information

Provide the names and departments of two faculty members who you believe would be ideal mentors for your research project. Faculty mentors must have completed their doctoral studies and possess experience in a university setting.

Mentor: _____

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	

<i>Office Phone</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Department</i>	

Mentor: _____

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	

<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Department</i>

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Department</i>	

Have you discussed this project with either or both professors? If so, please attach a brief summary of the results.

Letters of Recommendation

Two (2) letters of recommendation preferably from faculty members of Transfer School are required; please use the attached forms. Letters should address how your academic interests and preparation make you well suited to the program. The letters may be acquired from two faculty members from either present previous course of study. Please keep in mind that the letters of recommendation are significant elements of your application.

Faculty Member

Name

Address

Office Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Institution

Department

Faculty Member

Name

Address

Office Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Institution

Department

APPLICANT FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM

Applicant's Name (please print): _____

TO THE APPLICANT:

In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, you may waive your right to inspect this recommendation by signing the statement below. This waiver is not required as a condition for admission to the McNair Scholars Program.

I hereby waive my right to access this letter of recommendation.

Signature _____ Date _____

TO THE FACULTY:

The McNair Scholars Program is designed to prepare selected Troy University undergraduates to pursue graduate study toward a Ph.D. program. Students will spend the academic year developing writing and research skills while planning the research project that they will conduct during the summer under the direction of their faculty mentor.

Please attach a statement about this applicant that includes the following:

- How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
- What is your appraisal of the applicant's potential as a graduate student and as a future scholar?
- Evaluate the applicant's academic aptitude and preparation for graduate work, motivation for a Ph.D., and current academic performance in his/her area of concentration.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print): _____

Campus Address: _____

Please return this form by the end of March to:

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program
109B Shackelford Hall Annex
Troy, Alabama 36082

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. G. Dolo Diaminah
Academic Advisor
Email: gdiamina@troy.edu
Office: (334) 670-5988

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- What is your appraisal of the applicant's potential as a graduate student and as a future scholar?
- Evaluate the applicant's academic aptitude and preparation for graduate work, motivation for a Ph.D., and current academic performance in his/her area of concentration.

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If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. G. Dolo Diaminah
Academic Advisor
Email: gdiamina@troy.edu
Office: (334) 670-5988

APPLICANT PHOTO, VIDEO, AND INFORMATION RELEASE AGREEMENT

Applicant: _____

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Photo, Video and Information Release Agreement

I (Applicant's Name) _____ grant the Troy University Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program the right to use my name and picture, without compensation to me, in electronic media (i.e. websites and emails) and written materials (i.e. advertising material and brochures) for promotional fund raising and educational purposes.

I also grant the Troy University Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program permission to release contact information to the Department of Education, graduate school programs, and other educational institutions. I understand that the Troy University Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program will use my information for promotional and educational purposes. I hereby agree to hold the Troy University Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, its staff, and its affiliates harmless from any liability resulting from the use of the information, text, and pictures herein submitted.

Signature

Date

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The deadline for submitting all application materials including transcripts and letters of recommendation is the end of March of the application year.

Troy University Ronald McNair Scholars Program

Application

McNair Application Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do letters of recommendation need to be from Troy University professors?

A: All applicants must submit two (2) letters of recommendation either from Troy University professors or professors from your attendance at a prior college or university. Your application will be evaluated by Troy University McNair Scholars Search Committee.

Q: If I am an incoming transfer student, can I get letters from my Community College Instructors?

A: Yes, this is acceptable if you cannot secure strong letters from Troy University faculty.

Q: Can I get a letter of recommendation from an employer or an organization I volunteered for?

A: Faculty (academic) letters are best. The recommender should speak to your ability to do research.

Q: What happens if my letter of recommendation arrives past the deadline?

A: No application material will be considered past the application deadline.

Q: I am graduating soon. Am I still eligible to apply?

A: In order to participate as a McNair Scholar, you must be enrolled in the Spring semester and available to do full-time research during the Summer. For example, to be a part of our current Cohort Year, you must be enrolled at Troy University in the Spring Semester/Term and available to conduct research during the Summer.

Q: Do I need to have a Faculty mentor when I apply?

A: No, we can work with you to find a faculty mentor if you are accepted into the program and do not already have a mentor. If you have already secured a mentor, please mention it in your application.

Q: Am I still eligible if my GPA is below a 2.5?

A: We are unfortunately unable to admit students with a GPA that is under a 2.5. If you are an eligible student in your Junior year at Troy University, we encourage you to work on raising your GPA and reapply during your Senior year.

Q: Can I study abroad in the summer and still participate in the McNair Scholars Program? A: No, you must be available to do research from June through early August. If your research requires you to travel, then you must be granted permission and return to Troy University by early July.

Q: Will I be allowed to work and/or take classes if necessary during the summer?

A: It is recommended that you focus solely on your research during the summer. However, you may petition to work or take a class during the summer if necessary.

Q: Am I able to receive financial aid for courses during the summer in addition to my McNair stipend?

A: Yes, if there are any issues with receiving your stipend, please contact us immediately to resolve the issue.

Q: What does the timeline for participation in the McNair Program look like?

A: Generally, in the spring semester you will work on your research proposal. During the summer, you will implement your research project and present your work at our annual Ronald E. McNair Symposium, held on the Troy University campus. In the fall semester, you will publish your work in the McNair Research Journal and apply to graduate school.

Q: What if I am not completely sure about my research topic?

A: Describe it to the best of your ability for the application. Your topic may change once you are admitted into the program.

Q: What are my options if I am unable to take the GRE course during the summer?

A: You may defer enrollment until fall semester. However, it is recommended that you make the necessary adjustments to take the course during the summer. This will allow you to focus on your course work, publications/thesis, and applications to graduate school during the Fall semester.