

RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR 2009-2010

Established in memory of physicist and Challenger astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair, The McNair Achievement Program prepares eligible undergraduates for future doctoral studies. The goals of the program are to increase the number of underrepresented students in Ph.D. programs, and ultimately diversify the faculty in colleges and universities across the country. This federal grant program is one of several TRiO programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education supporting the academic achievement of low-income, first generation college students, and groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The WSU McNair Achievement Program is funded by a grant awarded to the WSU Graduate School.

BENEFITS OF BEING A MCNAIR SCHOLAR

Mentorship from McNair Faculty Mentors, Alumni, and program staff

Personalized graduate education/career planning

Fee waivers for the graduate school applications and the G.R.E.

Graduate school and G.R.E. preparation courses

Paid research experience with McNair Faculty Mentors

Presentation of your research at local, regional, and national conferences

Connection with other Scholars from WSU, the region, and the nation

Visits to graduate schools

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. US citizen or permanent resident
2. First generation and low-income

First generation: neither parent received a Bachelor's degree

Low-income: an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount. For exact figures, please refer to the table at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>

OR

A member of an underrepresented group in graduate education

As stipulated by the US Department of Education for all McNair Achievement Programs, these groups include: African American, Chicana/o Latina/o, Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander.

3. Enrolled full-time as an undergraduate at WSU-Pullman
4. Minimum of 60 academic credits (Junior standing) earned prior to Fall 09
5. Minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.85
6. Desire to pursue a doctoral degree (Ph.D.)



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COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET INCLUDES:

- I. **Applicant Information**
- II. **Family Information:** Please indicate if information is unknown and unattainable.
- III. **Information Release**
- IV. **Statement of Purpose:** Not to exceed 1000 words. Statement must be typed and double-spaced.
- V. **Transcripts:** Attach one copy of your academic transcripts from each college and/or university you have attended. "Unofficial" transcripts and other academic records will be accepted.
- VI. **Letters of Recommendation:** To be completed by faculty, staff, or work supervisors who are able to comment on your abilities to participate in the McNair Achievement Program and eventual graduate study. Submit two sealed recommendations with your application packet.

Submit completed application packet to: WSU McNair Achievement Program
Lighty Student Services Building 260, Room 260 AH
Pullman, WA 99164-1064

APPLICATION DUE DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2009

I. Applicant Information

Name _____ WSU ID # _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Citizenship: US Citizen Permanent Resident Other _____
(Please specify)

Primary email address _____ Secondary email address _____

Primary phone number _____ Secondary phone number _____

Local Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Permanent Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

I am (Check all that apply)

African American Asian American Caucasian Chicana/o Latina/o

Native American or Alaskan Native _____
(Enrolled or principle tribe)

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander _____
(Please specify)

Other Group(s) _____
(Please specify)

Academic major(s) or interest areas _____

Academic minor(s) _____

WSU cumulative grade point average _____ Current major grade point average _____

Cumulative credits earned _____ Expected graduation date _____

Did you participate in a TRiO or similar program in Junior High or High School (Upward Bound, Talent Search, Gear UP, etc.)?

(Please specify)

If you transferred to WSU from a community college or other university, did you participate in a TRiO or similar at that institution (Student Support Services, Veteran's Upward Bound, EOC, EOPS, etc.)?

(Please specify)

Did you participate in Running Start as a High-School Student? Yes No

What are you interested in studying at the graduate level? _____

As of today, which graduate degree is your ultimate goal?

Master's Ph.D. Ed.D. Professional Degree (J.D., M.D., D.V.M., etc.) Other _____

Summer residency acknowledgement

A major component of the McNair Achievement Program is the summer research project which requires you to be on the Pullman campus. The summer research project occurs **after** your first fall and spring semesters in the program (Summer 2010). Do you foresee any circumstances which would prevent you from fulfilling this requirement? Yes No

If "Yes", please explain _____

II. Family Information

Parent/Guardian Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Highest Grade Completed (Please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College degree(s) earned Bachelor's Master's Ph.D. Other _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Highest Grade Completed (Please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College degree(s) earned Bachelor's Master's Ph.D. Other _____

Please indicate if information is unknown and unattainable _____

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III. Information Release

This release enables the McNair Achievement Program at Washington State University to obtain pertinent information for the purpose of determining program eligibility, assisting with educational and financial aid plans, and collecting program statistics. Aspects of this information and the nature of your participation in the program may be shared with other university personnel in accordance with federal and university policies. By signing below, you give permission to the program to obtain information for the purposes stated. You also indicate, to the best of your knowledge, the information given in this application is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature _____ Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)

IV. Statement of Purpose (1000 word limit)

Please describe your reasons for aspiring to pursue a Ph.D., your strengths and areas for growth regarding your preparation for graduate school, and the contributions you intend to make to your field of study and your community. Moreover, discuss your short-term (5yr.) and Long-term (10yr.) career goals. Address each topic in your statement of purpose. Do not exceed 1000 words. Your statement must be typed, double-spaced, and included with your completed application packet.

V. Transcripts

Please attach one copy of your academic transcripts from each college and/or university you have attended. "Unofficial" transcripts and other academic records will be accepted.

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VI. Letter of Recommendation

To the Applicant:

The Letter of Recommendation is to be written by a faculty, staff, or work supervisor (current or former).

Please include your information here:

Applicant _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Current Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Email _____ Telephone _____

Submit this form to your recommender, have them complete their portion below, and return to you with the letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope with their initials across the seal. Be sure to submit both sealed envelopes with your completed application packet.

To the Recommender:

The WSU McNair Achievement Program prepares qualified undergraduates for their future doctoral studies. The goals of the program are to increase the number of first generation/low-income and underrepresented students in Ph.D. programs, and ultimately diversify the faculty in colleges and universities across the country. Named after physicist and Challenger astronaut, Dr. Ronald E. McNair, the program is one of several TRiO programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The WSU McNair Achievement Program is funded by a federal grant awarded to the WSU Graduate School. For more information, please visit our website at www.wsu.edu/~mcnair or email us at mcnair@mail.wsu.edu.

This form is submitted to you by the Applicant as part of her/his application to the McNair Achievement Program. Please describe the context in which you know the applicant, their academic and/or work performance, and the qualities they possess which will aid in her/his pursuit of a graduate education. Please return the completed form and your letter in a sealed envelope with your initials across the seal to the Applicant. Thank you for your assistance.

Please include your information here:

Recommender _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Work Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Email _____ Telephone _____



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