# RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

## University of Washington

## Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity

Application Due Date: **Friday, April 14th, 2017 by 5:00 pm.**
Applicants must be available for an interview between the dates of May 1 - 5th.

Selections will be announced on or around June 1st.

## McNair Program Application

The Ronald E. McNair Program is federally funded by the Department of Education to prepare low-income, first generation undergraduates and undergraduates from underrepresented groups for doctoral study through involvement in research and scholarly activities. The Department of Education's web page provides more information at http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html.

## Program Benefits

The program offers a challenging and supportive environment that is conducive to learning and personal/ professional development. As a McNair Scholar, you will receive:

- The support of McNair Program Advisors
- Research opportunities
- Generous research stipends and travel allowances
- Faculty mentoring
- Workshops on the graduate school application process
- Assistance in locating graduate schools
- Access to standardized test preparation software
- Access to tutoring and the OMA&D Instructional Center
- Assistance in locating and applying to research internships
- Assistance in locating funding/financial aid resources
- Opportunities for participation in research conferences

### Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for acceptance into the McNair Program, you must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree program at the University of Washington. In addition, you:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Must be a low-income student who is also a first-generation college student (neither parent or legal guardian has a Bachelor's degree)
    - **or**
    Must be a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education (African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander)
- Must have completed 36 credits by the time of initial entry into the program
- Must have at least one year remaining before graduation (i.e., if you are graduating within the year, you are not eligible for the program)
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of: 2.8 (sophomores), 3.0 (juniors), 3.2 (seniors)
- Must express STRONG desire to attain a Ph.D.

### *Application Checklist*

A complete application packet includes the following items:

- ❑ Completed application form
- ❑ Statement of purpose
- ❑ One or two letters of recommendation depending on year in school (see next page) with release forms
- ❑ A copy of college transcript from each institution you have attended, including the UW (unofficial is fine)
- ❑ A copy of your financial aid award letter and 2015 income tax return (for dependent students, your parent's return)
- ❑ A writing sample of at least two pages that was completed within the last year (e.g., a paper from a course)

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## Statement of Purpose

Please write a single essay addressing the following topics and attach it to your application. Please limit your statement to a maximum of two pages, with double spacing, 1-inch margins and using 11 or 12 pt font (Times New Roman or Arial).  Your essays should incorporate the following details.

1. Personal background —

   • Please describe your family and educational background.
   • Describe any financial, familial, or personal responsibilities that you may have that will require your attention during the next couple of years? (This is in addition to regular academic work.)

2. Academic interests —

   • What research topics, fields or departments do you find most interesting?
   • Please describe your research experiences, if any.
   • Discuss your academic interests and plans (major(s), minor(s) etc.).  Talk about what you enjoy and hope to learn from this field.
   • What Ph.D. program (major) do you intend to pursue?
   • Are you interested in a career in academia (i.e., as a professor at a college or university)? What do you hope to gain from and contribute to academia?

3. Community involvement—

   • What extracurricular activities do you participate in?
   • Describe your volunteer activities or ways in which you "give back" to your community.
   • In what ways do you see yourself as a role model for, or in what ways do you hope to become a role model in the future?

4.  Impact of the McNair program—
   • Discuss how the McNair program can help you attain your goals.
   • Discuss how you see yourself contributing to the McNair/TRIO community.

## References (please read carefully)

**Current first year students, sophomores, and transfer students (based on years in school, not credits)** need one letter from a professor, lecturer, instructor, teaching assistant, academic counselor, or undergraduate advisor. An additional letter from a
UW faculty member is encouraged, but not required.

**Current Juniors and Seniors** are required to submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a UW faculty member with an earned Ph.D. We encourage you to get an additional letter from a UW faculty,
but letters from a lecturer, instructor, teaching assistant, academic counselor, or undergraduate advisor are also acceptable.

Fill out the top portion of the form and give it to your recommender. The recommender should return the form directly to the McNair Program at the address provided on the form.

## Directions for Submitting your Letter(s) of Reference:

1) Contact your letter writers, telling them that you will be applying to the McNair program (remember to provide your writers with plenty of time to write you a strong letter.)
2) Provide the UW McNair program with the name, email, title and department of your letter writer(s) via email. (uwmcnair@uw.edu). In your subject line write: Reference Submission for (*your name*).
3) We will send your letter writer an email with the instructions for writing and uploading an electronic copy.  We will send out your email within 24 hours (M-Th) of receipt of your email, so make sure you provide us with the name(s) and email(s) as soon as you are starting your application.

# RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

**Application submission deadline April 14, 2017 by 5:00pm:**
Please mail or drop off application packet to (We do not accept electronic submission):
**Ronald E. McNair Program**
**University of Washington**
**Box 352803**
**171 Mary Gates Hall**
**Seattle, WA 98195-2803**

**COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET INCLUDES THE APPLICATION FORM, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, TRANSCRIPT(S), WRITING SAMPLE, FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER, and YOUR PARENTS' 2015 TAX RETURN (or your return if you are "self-supporting" or "independent" as determined by the Office of Financial Aid).**

# RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

University of Washington • Box 352803 •171 Mary Gates Hall • Seattle, WA 98195-2803
Phone: (206) 543-6460 • Fax: (206) 616-4389 • Email: uwmcnair@uw.edu
http://depts.washington.edu/uwmcnair
Application Due Date: **Friday, April 14, 2017 by 5:00 pm**

**Name** _____ **Email Address** _____

**Address** _____

**City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone #** _____

**Major** _____ **Cumulative GPA** _____ **Major GPA** _____

**Intended or potential Ph.D. program(s)** _____

**Do you plan to attend graduate school (Ph.D. Program) immediately (within 3 months) after obtaining your undergraduate degree from UW?   Yes        No**

**OR**

**Do you plan to attend graduate school (Ph.D. Program) after a year or more after obtaining your undergraduate degree from UW?   Yes      No      If so how many year(s) after?**

_____

**Birth date** _____ **SS#** _____ **UW Student #** _____

**Current Year in School:**  Sophomore      Junior      Senior      **Gender:** Male      Female

**Intended Quarter, Year of Graduation:**

**Ethnicity / Race (check all applicable):**

Other

_____

**Are you eligible for financial aid?**      Yes        No        Have not applied

**Can your parents claim you as a dependent on their tax return?  Yes        No**

**From your Financial Aid Award Letter, are you: Dependant          Self-Supporting**

**Number in family (from tax return, including parent(s), yourself and other dependents):**

**Family annual taxable income (for 2015 return): $**
**\*\*\*Note - this is not the "Adjusted Gross" income, but the taxable income after deductions usually found on the 2nd page of the tax return\*\*\***

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**Has either mother or father (or other guardian if applicable) earned a bachelor's degree? Mother:** yes   no

**Father:** yes        no          **Guardian:** yes              no

**Have you regularly resided with and received support from only one parent/guardian who completed a bachelor's degree?**                Yes        No

**If yes, who?**    Mother                Father                      Guardian

**What is the highest level of education achieved by any of your parents/guardian?**

_____

**Are you a U.S. Citizen?**  Yes        No        **If no, are you a permanent resident?** Yes        No

 (Permanent residents must provide copy of documentation)

_____

**Are you a current Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) student?** Yes              No

_____

**In which of the following programs have you participated? (Check all that apply):**

Talent Search          Upward Bound          Upward Bound Math/Science          E.O.C.          SSS

Early Identification Program (EIP)                Other

_____

Please tell us how you heard about the McNair Program:

_____

_____

**I certify that the information provided in this application is true and corret**

Signature:_____          Date _____