

Application for the 2019-2020 McNair Scholars Cohort

University of Washington
Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity

Due Date: 5:00 pm Friday, February 1st, 2019
(A physical copy of the application must be turned in to the McNair office)

Application Timeline:

- February 1, 2019 by 5:00 pm: Application due date.
- February 19 – 28: 2nd Round Interviews for selected applicants.
- Early March: Final selections will be announced.

McNair Scholars Program

The Ronald E. McNair TRIO 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](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 and professional development. As a McNair Scholar, you will receive:

- The support of McNair Program Advisors
- Research opportunities
- Opportunity to receive 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



University of Washington

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for acceptance into the McNair Program, you must be:

1. currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree program at the University of Washington.
2. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
3. Must be a low-income student who is also a first-generation college student (neither parent or legal guardian has a Bachelor's degree) *See our website for full details.*

-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 /Native Pacific Islander)

4. Must have completed at least 36 credits by the time of initial entry into the program
5. Must have at least one year remaining before graduation (i.e., if you are graduating in 2019 you are not eligible for the program)
6. Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of: 2.8 (sophomores), 3.0 (juniors & seniors)
7. Must express STRONG desire to attain a Ph.D.

Application Checklist

A complete application packet includes the following items:

1. Completed application form (Fill out and Sign the Application Form. Use Adobe Reader to fill out the form prior to printing.).
2. Resume / Curriculum vitae (CV)
3. Application Essays (See page 3).
4. Letters of recommendation (See page 4).
5. Unofficial copy(ies) of college transcript(s) (See page 4).
6. A copy of your financial aid award letter (See page 4).
7. 2016 income tax return (See page 4).
8. A writing sample of at least two pages that was completed within the last year (e.g., a paper from a course).

Application Essays

Instructions:

The written work for each of the essays must be coherent, short essays with complete sentences and no bullet points. We highly recommend that you have your essays proofread for grammar and content. These essays, like graduate school essays, are read for both content as well as written fluency. It is not necessary to use the full word limit for each question; we anticipate that your answers to all 4 questions will be at the most 2 to 2.5 pages in length.

The essays may not exceed the set word limit. Use either 11 or 12-pt font with 1.5-line spacing (Times New Roman, or Arial). Include a heading that identifies each of the 4 essays and also include the word count at the end of each essay (e.g. (498 words)).

Essay 1: Personal Statement (500 words)

Please describe your personal educational journey. In this essay, discuss your current and future educational interests as well as your family's educational background. When writing about your current interests, discuss the factors that have influenced the development of your educational interests and include information about your academic plan (major(s), minor(s) etc.) along with your projected timeline for completing your degree and attending graduate school. Discuss what you enjoy about your current academic work as well as what you hope to learn and achieve from your fields of interest. Finally, include information about your academic successes as well as academic challenges.

Essay 2: Research Statement & Graduate School Interests (500 words)

Please discuss your research interests and how they relate to your graduate school plans. Include in this essay information about any current research projects and research mentors who you may be working with. If you are not currently involved in undergraduate research, discuss what research topic(s)/question(s) you would like to explore. Discuss what graduate program(s) you are considering applying to and how these programs fit within your short and long-term academic goals. It is fine if you have not found a definite graduate program, if this is the case, discuss the type of graduate degree and program you feel would fit with your goals.

Essay 3: Impact of the McNair Program (300 words)

Please discuss how the TRIO McNair program can assist you in attaining your goals. Include information about why you would like to participate in this program and what you hope to learn from and achieve by participating in the program. If you have been involved in other TRIO programs or similar academic support programs in high school or college, include information about how these programs have influenced your academic journey. Finally, please discuss how you see yourself contributing to the TRIO McNair community now and in the future.

Essay 4: Community Involvement (300 words)

Please discuss how you spend your time outside of academics with a particular focus on your extra-curricular activities, work, and community involvement. We are particularly interested in hearing about how you "give back" to your communities. We consider "giving back" very broadly and depending upon the context, "giving back" may include work, volunteering, or participating in family activities and/or family obligations. Similarly, we view the term community in a broad context. For example, community might be your family, your hometown, or something that you have built at a university or school. Finally, discuss the ways that you see yourself as a role model, or in what ways you hope to become a role model in the future.

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Instructions for Submitting Letters of Recommendation

1) Current University of Washington First or Second year students:

Provide one letter of recommendation from a professor, lecturer, instructor, or teaching assistant. An additional letter, which can include academic advisors, is encouraged, but not required.

2) Transfer Students:

Provide two letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your academic record, ability and goals. We encourage you to get at least one from a UW faculty member, lecturer, instructor, teaching assistant or academic advisor.

3) Current Third or Fourth year students:

Provide 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, or undergraduate advisor are also acceptable.

Directions for Electronic Submission of your Letter(s) of Recommendation

1. Contact your letter writers, letting 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.

Instructions for Submitting Financial Information

In order to meet Federal Department of Education TRIO requirements, we must collect recent tax information from either your parents or guardian if you are considered a dependent, or your own tax information if you are considered self-supporting.

For your application to be considered complete, please submit the following documents.

- 1) A copy of the 2017 Federal Tax Return. It is not necessary to submit the entire document. Only include the pages that contain the name(s) and addresses of the filers and the page(s) that include the **Taxable Income and signatures**. Usually, this is the first 2-pages of the document that is submitted to the IRS.
- 2) A copy of your most recent financial aid award letter.

Instructions for Submitting Transcripts

- 1) Submit unofficial transcripts from all of the school you have attended.
- 2) If schools charge for transcripts, let the UW McNair program know and only submit UW transcripts.

RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Application submission deadline February 1, 2019 by 5:00pm:
(*We are not able to accept electronic submission.*)

Please mail or drop off application packet to:

Ronald E. McNair Program
University of Washington Box 352803
Center for Experiential Learning and Diversity
171 Mary Gates Hall
Seattle, WA 98195-2803



COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKET INCLUDES:

- 1) The Application Form
- 2) Resume / Curriculum vitae
- 3) Statement of Purpose
- 4) Electronic Submission of Letters of Recommendation
- 5) Transcripts(s)
- 6) Writing Sample
- 7) Financial Aid Award Letter
- 8) A copy of your Parent's 2017 Federal Tax Return
 - The copy **must include the Signature page** and include the calculation of Taxable Income. This is generally only the first 2 pages of the standard Federal tax returns.
 - If you are "self-supporting" or "independent" as determined by the Office of Financial Aid include your personal Tax Return.