

## **The Program**

The Southern Methodist University (SMU) Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was established in 1995 and has been in existence for almost 20 years. Housed in the Simmons School of Education, the McNair Scholars Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and serves a diverse group of talented SMU students who are interested in pursuing graduate education and earning a doctorate. SMU McNair provides enriching scholastic experiences that prepare eligible students to be successful applicants to competitive graduate programs. Program participants benefit from a variety of services, such as: intensive faculty-mentored research experience; peer support; academic, career, personal and financial aid counseling; assistance with applying to graduate school; travel opportunities; and professional and personal development workshops. There are currently 151 McNair programs throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

## **Eligibility**

McNair Scholars are selected on a competitive basis. To be eligible, an applicant must:

- McNair Scholars are selected on a competitive basis. To be eligible, an applicant must:
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Meet at least one of the following federally mandated requirements:
  1. Be a low-income AND first-generation college student according to established guidelines, OR
  2. Be a member of a group underrepresented in graduate education (Alaska Native, American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian, Native Pacific Islander)
- Have sincere intentions to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation

Preference is given to students who are SMU sophomores or juniors.

## **Program Requirements**

Students must demonstrate a true commitment to pursuing doctoral studies and agree to participate in all of the following: intensive faculty-guided summer research program, ongoing research/scholarly activity during the academic year, summer research methods course, seminars, workshops, and advisement meetings with McNair staff. Participants are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

## **Program Benefits**

McNair Scholars conduct research under the guidance of a faculty mentor beginning in the spring and continuing throughout the academic year. Scholars will receive a research stipend for completion of all requirements of the research component (i.e. submit drafts and final research paper to the program or submit a paper to the SMU Journal of Undergraduate Research or an external, Tier 1 Research Journal; give an oral presentation at the Engaged Learning Symposium in the Fall and/ or Research Day in the Spring;). Additionally, scholars will have opportunities to travel to professional conferences to present their research and/or to visit prospective graduate programs at universities of interest. Scholars who complete the program in good standing will have access to graduate school application fee waivers and potential graduate fellowships offered to McNair Scholars by a number of universities in the U.S.



## Application Packet 2018-2019

### Application Requirements

Applicants must submit all of the following to have a complete application:

- Application checklist
- Completed and signed application form
- Personal statement (maximum 2 pages, 1-inch margins, 12 point font, double-spaced)
- Resume (maximum 2 pages) including, but not limited to, academic honors, involvement in student and professional organizations, extracurricular activities, and previous research experience
- Two (2) recommendations (at least 1 must be from faculty)
- Proof of eligibility documentation, as applicable (e.g. signed income statement, etc.)

For more information, please contact the McNair Scholars Program Manager, Jacqueline Lowrey, at [mcnairscholars@smu.edu](mailto:mcnairscholars@smu.edu) or call 214-768-4454.

*Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The application cycle will close when all slots are filled.*

### Priority Application Deadline:

  11   /   02   /   2018  

Please submit all contents of the application package *in person* or *by mail* to:

#### Campus Location:

McNair Scholars Program  
Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall  
3101 University Blvd Suite 306H  
Dallas, TX 75205  
214. 768.4454

or

McNair Scholars Program  
P.O. Box 750437  
Dallas, TX 75275  
214. 768.3524



## Application Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Last Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**First**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Middle**

**University Classification:**

**SMU ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore (30 hours or more)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Year Student

**Status:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ SMU Continuing Student
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer Student

**This application packet contains the following:**

- Completed & Signed McNair Application
- Personal Statement
- Recommendation Letters (list names of recommenders below)

***Please have your recommenders send your letters to: [mcnairscholars@smu.edu](mailto:mcnairscholars@smu.edu)***

Recommender 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Unofficial copies of transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended
- Low-income Verification (signed copy of most recent income tax return)
- If you are classified by financial aid as “dependent” then we must have your parents tax return and yours if applicable



### STEP 3-Dependency Status & Income Verification

You must answer the questions in STEP 4 if you are **at least 24 years old** or you answered **YES** to any of the questions in STEP 3.

Your **parent(s)** must answer the questions in STEP 3 if you are **less than 24 years old** and you answered **NO** to all of the questions in STEP 4.

Total Number in Household	<b>What is the total number of persons in your family?</b> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dependent - As Determined by Financial Aid	<p><b>If you are a dependent applicant (received support from parent(s) or guardian):</b>          Did your parents/guardian file a federal income tax return for last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No          If yes, what was their TAXABLE income?  <input type="text"/> \$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/>          (Note: Your taxable income can be found on the federal income tax return you filed for the last calendar year. On IRS Form 1040, see line 42. On IRS Form 1040A, see line 27. On IRS Form 1040EZ, see line 6. On IRS Telefile, see line K1.)  <b>Please provide a signed copy of the tax return with application</b>           If no, what was their total income was?  <input type="text"/> \$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/>   <input type="checkbox"/> I attest that my family had no taxable income for the last calendar year.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent - As Determined by Financial Aid	<p><b>If you are an independent applicant (at least 24 years of age; or a veteran, orphan (both parents deceased), ward of the court, married, or have dependents other than a spouse):</b>          Did you file a federal income tax return for last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No          If yes, what was your TAXABLE income? _____</p>
<b>Signature: _____ Date: _____</b>	
<b>** Please include a copy of the appropriate federal income tax return from the previous year. Applicant's name should appear on the return that is submitted. Black out all social security numbers. **</b>	

### STEP 4-Educational Information

What is your expected class standing by January 2018? <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____		
What is your major? _____	What is your major GPA? _____	What is your expected graduation date? ____ / ____ / ____
Do you plan to apply to graduate school? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, when do you anticipate attending? <input type="checkbox"/> Fall 20__ <input type="checkbox"/> Spring 20__ <input type="checkbox"/> Summer 20__		
What graduate institution(s) and program(s) particularly interest you?		
	(1)	(2)
	(3)	
Institution:	_____	_____
Program:	_____	_____

Please indicate if you have participated in any of the following TRiO programs:

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)  Student Support Services (SSS)  Educational Talent Search (ETS)  Upward Bound (UB)  
 Upward Bound Math & Science (UBMS)

Please indicated it you have participated in any of the following programs offered at SMU:

Engaged Learning  Undergraduate Research Assistantships  Summer Research Assistantships  
 Hamilton Scholars  Summer Research Fellows  
 Tower Scholars  Maguire Fellows  Rotunda Scholars  University Honors Program

Have you already identified a Faculty Mentor?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide the following:

Faculty Mentor's Name	Mentor's Department
Mentor's Email	
Research Topic:	

### Step 5- Additional Documents

<b>Personal Statement</b>
Attach a personal statement (2 pages maximum, 1 inch margins, 12 pt font, double-spaced) describing the following: (1) Your educational and career goals; (2) your research interests and prior research experience; (3) your motivation for pursuing a doctoral degree; (4) the contributions you wish to make to your field, as well as to your community, with a doctoral degree; and (5) how participation in the McNair Scholars Program will help you reach your goals. <u>Include your name &amp; SMU ID on each page</u>

<b>Resume</b>
Attach a professional resume (2 pages maximum) including, but not limited to, the following: academic honors, involvement in student and professional organizations, extracurricular activities, and any previous research experience. <u>Include your name &amp; SMU ID on each page.</u>

<b>Faculty Recommendations</b>	
Please provide the following information for 2 faculty recommenders: <b>REMINDER: Please have your recommenders send your letters to: <a href="mailto:mcnairscholars@smu.edu">mcnairscholars@smu.edu</a></b>	
<b>Recommender 1</b>	<b>Recommender 2</b>
Name	Name
Email	Email

## STEP 6- Application Signature

Read, sign, and date.

By signing this application, you attest that all the information on this application is true. Moreover, you authorize the release of official school records to Southern Methodist University, understanding that the information in these records will be used only to assess the student's need for program services, discern his/her educational progress, evaluate the effectiveness of program activities, and fulfill program reporting requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**

**Date:**    \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
                  **DD**      **MM**      **YYYY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Signature**

**Date:**    \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
                  **DD**      **MM**      **YYYY**

(Parent's signature is required if applicant answered **Dependent-As Determined by Financial Aid** in STEP 3.)

**Please Return to:**

**Campus Location:**

McNair Scholars Program  
Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall  
3101 University Blvd Suite 306H    or  
Dallas, TX 75205  
214. 768.4454

**SMU East Campus Location:**

McNair Scholars Program  
P.O. Box 750437  
Dallas, TX 75275  
214. 768.3524

## How did you hear about the McNair Scholars Program?

- McNair Scholar    McNair Staff    McNair Mentor    Other Faculty/Staff    Friend    Flyer
- Recruiting Event    Email from McNair Program
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_