

Purpose:

The Purpose of the McNair Graduate Opportunity Program is to improve effective preparation for doctoral study to low-income, first-generation college students and students from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education.

The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program (called the McNair Graduate Opportunity Program) has been established in honor of the second African American in space, the late Ronald E. McNair. As the last of the U.S. Senate's TRIO programs, the McNair Scholar's Program maintains the spirit of its namesake by encouraging highly talented students to pursue advanced degrees.

Program Benefits:

Focusing on graduate school preparation, the McNair Graduate Opportunity Program demystifies the graduate school experience, including research. The program offers a scholarly environment whereby students receive academic, financial, and social support.

McNair Scholars:

1. Engage in Research. Participants conduct research under the guidance of a Faculty Mentor. Quality research projects provide a realistic picture of graduate school scholarship, while also preparing students for the doctoral school climate.
2. Participate in an Intense Summer Internship. Students participate in an eight-week summer program during which they continue individual research projects, attend a graduate school seminar, and participate in a graduate school visitation program.
3. Develop & Deliver Professional Research. Presentations. Each student culminates his/her McNair Program experience by presenting his/her research at the McNair Summer Program Research Symposium. In addition, students have the opportunity to travel to additional McNair conferences nationwide and to network with graduate school representatives, as well as McNair Scholars from across the country.
4. Attend Graduate School Preparation Seminars and Workshops. Students attend weekly graduate school seminars and/or workshops that focus on specific topics designed to demystify the graduate school application process, including how to identify the graduate programs that "fit" their needs and interests, preparation for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and how to excel in graduate school.
5. Visit Graduate Schools and meet with Graduate Faculty Members. Students travel to various graduate schools throughout the country to examine institutions and departments as possible graduate school destinations.