

UConn McNAIR FELLOWS PROGRAM



“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky!”

~Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986) was a NASA astronaut, accomplished musician, and black belt Karate instructor. He grew up in Lake City, SC working in cotton and tobacco fields to help support his family. McNair excelled in school, graduating as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967. His high school achievements earned McNair a state scholarship and he entered North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University that fall to study physics. McNair was named a Ford Foundation fellow, a presidential scholar, and a magna cum laude graduate of the physics program, honors that earned him a scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he completed his doctoral work. While working at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California, McNair was invited to apply for the NASA space program. His second mission aboard the Challenger ended in an explosion that killed all eight astronauts on January 28, 1986. That year, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was established to serve students like Dr. McNair who are committed to high standards of academic and personal achievement.

UConn McNair Eligibility Form

Eligibility Requirements Part 1

McNair participants must be able to check off a, or b, or both a and b

1. *Check off the categories that apply to you:*

a) ___ I am a first generation college student (neither parent has a four-year college degree) **AND** my family meets Federal TRIO income guidelines.

Federal TRIO Programs 2014 Income Levels

Family Unit	Taxable Income
1	\$17,505
2	\$23,595
3	\$29,685
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,865
6	\$47,955
7	\$54,045
8	\$60,135

b) ___ I am from a population underrepresented in Ph.D. programs.

** United States Department of Education: Black (non-hispanic), Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Native (as defined in section 7306 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA)), Native Hawaiian (as defined in section 7207 of the ESEA), and Native American Pacific Islander (as defined in section 320 of HEA)

2. *Ethnicity:* I self-identify as _____.

Eligibility Requirements Part 2

Must check both

___ I am a U.S. citizen or Legal Resident (please submit documentation if Legal Resident)

___ I am currently enrolled in an undergraduate, baccalaureate program at the University of Connecticut.

Student Name

Student Signature

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
UConn McNAIR FELLOWS PROGRAM
May 11 – 22, 2015

McNair Application

The University of Connecticut's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares undergraduate students who are **rising sophomores**, students who will be sophomores in the fall, or **students who just completed their sophomore year**, for advanced academic study and research, particularly in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). We are inviting selected students to participate in a two-week McNair Fellows Program. McNair Fellows partner with staff, faculty mentors, and graduate students for academic exploration through workshops, seminars, and field trips designed to provide early exposure to scientific research in the academy.

The McNair Selection Committee will review applications to determine eligibility as mandated by federal TRiO guidelines. Eligible candidates will be evaluated using the following criteria: need for the program, academic preparedness, and has demonstrated commitment to participate in summer study as exhibited through the personal statement, recommendation, and interview.

If selected for an interview, they will be held during the weeks of March 9 and March 23, 2015.

Please submit one stapled packet, printed single-sided by Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 4PM:

- **UConn McNair Eligibility Form (page 2)**
- **2015 McNair Application Form (page 5, 6)**
- **Personal essay:**
 - **Format:** 1 page max., Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, 1-inch margins (all).
 - **Required content:** see page 8
- **University of Connecticut Transcript (unofficial)**
- **1 Letter of Recommendation in sealed, signed envelope (or) signed, scanned, and emailed as a PDF from recommender directly to renee.gilberti@uconn.edu**
- **Financial Aid Documentation (upon request)**

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
UConn McNair Scholars Program Attn: Dr. Renée M. Gilberti
368 Fairfield Way, Unit 4170

Office room #: Rowe CUE 204
(or)
Rowe CUE 221 (mailbox location)

For further information, please contact Dr. Renée M. Gilberti, McNair Scholars Program Coordinator at 860.486.5146 or renee.gilberti@uconn.edu.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Ronald E. McNair Fellow at the University of Connecticut. We look forward to reviewing your application.

The McNair Selection Committee will contact the finalists for an interview to be scheduled in March.

Students who are accepted into the McNair Scholars Program will be notified when the selection process is completed in April.

McNair Fellows Program Application – Checklist:

Page 4 is for you to keep. Do not submit with your application.

1. Pages 2, 5, and 6 are completed, initialed, and signed _____
2. Unofficial UConn transcript _____
3. Personal essay is complete (see page 8) _____
4. 1 letter of recommendation _____
5. Staple as 1 packet _____

Packet to pass to your recommenders:

Be sure to provide ample time for your recommenders to write their letters

See page 3 for mailing/ emailing details

- Information about the program: <http://www.cap.uconn.edu/msp/about.html>
- Page 7 as guidelines for the recommender's letter
- A copy of your unofficial UConn transcript
- If necessary, 1 envelope for your recommender (self-addressed)

KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS

McNair Fellows Program Agreement
May 11-22, 2015

I understand that as a McNair Fellow, I will commit myself to all of the program requirements:

- Remain in-residence, on the UConn-Storrs campus for the entire two week McNair Fellows Program, including the weekend of May 16 – 17, 2015
- Utilize the dining hall meal plan provided for me for all meals.
- Shadow researchers during the set times and days, maintain a notebook and time logs.
- Build writing, critical reading, and qualitative/quantitative skills
- Attend McNair workshops and seminars
- Participate in educational field trips
- Be respectful to classmates and presenters, pay attention without the use of technology, and ask questions about their work
- Fully participate in all aspects of the program in order to receive up to \$500. Without full participation, the full stipend amount will not be awarded.
- Delay enrollment in summer class or starting a summer job at any time until after May 22, 2015.

Student Signature

Date



CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

McNair Fellow Applicant: please pass this form to your McNair Reference

Please submit letters by Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Letter of Recommendation

Applicant Name _____ Student ID _____

This student has applied for admission to the UConn McNair Fellows Program, which is designed to introduce and expose undergraduates to research opportunities in the STEM disciplines in order for them to learn if they wish to pursue a full undergraduate research project, subsequently apply to be a McNair Scholar, and, perhaps, pursue a PhD degree.

With this in mind, please assist the McNair Selection Committee in determining this student's potential success as a McNair Fellow. We are interested in your evaluation of the student's academic commitment and scholarly achievements as well as her/his character, integrity, and professional promise. Please return to the student in the envelope provided with your signature across the sealed flap, or email a signed PDF letter to renee.gilberti@uconn.edu. Thank you.

For further information, please contact Dr. Renée M. Gilberti, McNair Program Coordinator at 860.486.5146 or renee.gilberti@uconn.edu.

McNair Fellows Program

Personal Essay: Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 1 page

Please be sure to incorporate responses to as many of the following questions as possible:

- 1) Share with us about your UConn experience so far – challenges and strengths. What have you learned about yourself since your first semester?
 - 2) Tell us about a scenario when you were discouraged or failed – How did you handle it?
 - 3) When did you begin to consider pursuing education beyond an undergraduate degree? What have you done thus far to prepare for graduate school?
 - * Please share how any volunteer and community service involvement motivated you to pursue a higher degree.
 - 4) Which aspect of the McNair Fellows Program is most attractive to you?
 - 5) How does participating in the McNair Fellows Program help you achieve your academic goals?
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