

USC TRIO PROGRAMS

RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



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A Collaboration of School, College, and Community

Student Application 2011—12

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO PROGRAMS

Ronald E. McNair

Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

2012 Application

TRIO Programs
1400 Wheat Street
University of South Carolina 29208
Phone 803.777.5125 • Fax 803.777.7380
www.sc.edu/trio

Dear Applicant:

This application is for participation in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program sponsored by the University of South Carolina.

Additional applications are available at the TRIO Program Office and on the web at www.sc.edu/trio. Please contact USC TRIO at 803.777.5125 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Completed applications are due no later than **December 16** and must be returned to the following address:

**RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
TRIO PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1400 WHEAT STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29208
Fax (803) 777-7380**

Ronald Ervin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro where he graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. degree in physics from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The second African-American to fly in space, McNair became an astronaut in 1978 and spent over 192 hours in space over the course of two flights. Known for his work in laser physics, McNair received many honorary doctorates and commendations for his academic and professional work. He was also a fifth-degree black belt in karate and an accomplished jazz saxophonist. Out of a pool of 1,000 applicants, McNair was selected to board the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger. On his second flight aboard the shuttle in 1986, McNair and six other members died in the Challenger's explosion.

Created in his honor, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program seeks to increase faculty diversity by preparing TRIO-eligible students for doctoral studies. The Program includes faculty mentoring, support activities, and research experiences.



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

This application is for participation in the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program sponsored by the University of South Carolina. Please review carefully the following requirements to ensure that your application will be given full consideration for selection.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for acceptance into the McNair program an applicant must

1. be a U.S. citizen or resident alien,
2. be a regularly enrolled student at a 4-year college or university in South Carolina,
3. be a first-generation, low-income student or a member of an underrepresented minority in doctoral studies, and
4. be willing to seriously consider the possibility of continuing his or her studies in a **doctoral program** and show potential for success in this pursuit

In addition, USC TRIO requires applicants to have completed at least 60 course credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree with 15 hours left to complete by May 2012. **Students with previous TRIO involvement receive enrollment preference.**

If selected for participation, students must participate in the six-week **Summer Research Component (SRC), May 21-June 27, 2012.**

FACULTY SUPPORT

Students are required to have the support of departmental faculty to complete this application and participate in the program. Accordingly, applicants must do the following:

1. Solicit letters of recommendation from two faculty members.
2. Work with a faculty member in the spring of 2012 to define a project for the **Summer Research Component.**
3. If possible, continue working with this faculty member on this research in the fall and spring of 2012-2013.
4. Receive advice and guidance from this faculty member regarding the graduate application process.

Applications are due no later than **December 16, 2011**, and must be returned to the following address:

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TRIO PROGRAMS
1400 WHEAT STREET
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, SC 29208
FAX (803) 777-7380**

Applications are available at the TRIO Program Office and web site (www.sc.edu/trio). Please contact USC TRIO at (803) 777-5125 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goal of the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is to increase the number of Ph.D. recipients from groups under-represented in graduate education. Accordingly, the program prepares TRIO-eligible students for doctoral studies through research and other scholarly activities. USC receives grant funding from the US Department of Education to sponsor this special initiative.

Students receive a number of benefits by participating in the McNair Achievement Program:

- Research experience, including a research inquiry course offered in the SRC
- Opportunities to publish research and to present findings at nationwide conferences
- Close relations with faculty
- Invaluable advisement on the graduate school application process
- Exposure to a variety of ways to finance graduate education (federal aid, fellowships, scholarships)
- \$2700 stipend for one year of participation

STUDENT SELECTION PROCEDURES

The University of South Carolina serves 25 students each year as participants in the TRIO McNair Program. Applicants must complete the application booklet that includes a personal essay, recommendations from two faculty members, and release-of-information forms. Students selected for participation must meet the following criteria:

- TRIO eligible (low-income, first-generation) or under-represented in graduate education
- At least 60 credit hours completed toward a baccalaureate degree by May 2012
- A cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0
- A US citizenship or permanent US residency

Once selected, the students enroll in the Program during the second semester of their sophomore or junior year to prepare for participation in the **Summer Research Component**. During their senior year, students apply to at least three graduate programs with the help of faculty mentors and advisors. They may also continue their summer research under the supervision of these professors.

INITIAL ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES

Students selected for participation must identify a topic for the **Summer Research Component** with the help of faculty in their departments. Since this research project should tie into sustainability concerns (see below), McNair administrators and faculty approve all proposed research projects.

Initial enrollment activities also include possible appointments at the University of South Carolina TRIO Programs office to meet McNair administrators and complete registration materials and attendance at a McNair orientation meeting and the McNair Symposium in the spring.

SUMMER RESEARCH COMPONENT

The SRC is a six-week, on-campus program designed to prepare McNair students for a future of graduate study. Students will complete a research project and a course in fundamentals of inquiry, receive faculty advisement and mentoring, attend seminars on graduate school and higher education, and participate in cultural and social events designed to make students comfortable with a future in higher education.

The Sustainability Model and the Research Project

The Sustainability Model (SM) is interdisciplinary and useful in helping students learn the fundamentals of research. The strategies employed in this model will ensure that students become well-rounded thinkers, problem-solvers, and leaders. Using the SM as the focal point for all student research will also serve to unify students and faculty and to create a departmental atmosphere similar to what students might encounter in graduate school. They will have a collegial, academic, and supportive basis for interacting with one another.

According to the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The SM works from a **paradigm of balance** between the environment and the needs of industry, economy, science, culture, and community. In “The Rhetoric and Reality of Sustainability,” Malcom Scully justifies this concept: “By linking socioeconomic objectives with the preservation of biodiversity, the argument goes, you create communities that have a stake in environmental protection, and you build a ‘conservation ethic’ among people who might otherwise be inclined to plunder their natural resources for short term economic benefits.”

The goal of the SM is to provide industry, society, and culture with the tools and knowledge to achieve this paradigm of balance. The malleability of the Sustainability Model should enable students to **apply the model to an area of research in their fields**. With the help of a faculty member, scholars must select their own topics in the spring semester, before the Summer Research Component begins. Areas from which to draw topics might include the following (many topics will overlap):

Engineering: System design; material design; development of new design methodologies (i.e. manufacture, service, reparability, durability); energy issues; environmentally friendly chemical processes, such as the use of constructed wetlands in an industrial setting.

Biological Sciences: Ecosystem health issues regarding water, air, soil, ozone depletion, or destruction of the rain forests; industrial hygiene regarding employee health; waste systems in hospitals, treatment plants, or energy facilities.

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences: Global political issues; the benefits or lack of benefits to industry and the environment regarding recycling and re-manufacturing; issues regarding physical and mental public health; health risks for socio-economic and/or ethnic groups in the home, the workplace, and elsewhere; education issues in K-12; education issues in 2 or 4-year colleges and universities and beyond; education issues associated with information exchange; ethical issues associated with changes in ecosystems, the environment, mass production, manufacturing, or development.

Information Science: Information science is a major part of the technical glue that binds the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of the SM; all research projects might have an information science component. Topics might include information management systems, analysis of decision-making or information flow modeling, and issues such as modeling information in thermodynamics.

Humanities: Teaching methods; the creative process; the fluctuation of trends, biases, and other standards in academia, the social sciences, literature, or the performing arts; academia as industry versus academia as an educational muse.

After the student has selected a topic with the help of a faculty member in the spring, he or she will begin the SRC and complete the research project **under weekly supervision of McNair faculty**. Students who make exceptional progress with their research projects will be selected to present their work at a McNair conference sponsored by Georgia State University, Penn State University, the University of Maryland, or another conference hosted by a university that supports the TRIO McNair Program.

Fundamentals of Inquiry Course

This course is an introductory course into fundamentals of inquiry and research in the humanities. Even for students who are not conducting research in the humanities, we feel that the liberal arts tradition helps form a solid foundation for graduate studies in other disciplines. The course considers, “what are the liberal arts and why they have been recommended as a course of study necessary for a general education?” It also examines views about the best kind of university education as well as the relationship of the humanities to science and the history of the humanities.

Faculty Mentoring

Faculty mentors help students with graduate school placement. With mentor help, students must identify graduate programs as well as faculty in the student’s academic department to which they will apply, who can serve as advisors and provide letters of reference in applications to graduate programs.

The mentoring process will also include making a plan for funding graduate school. Students will be required to detail the costs of completing a particular program and then compile sources of financial assistance. This assistance will include teaching and research assistantships, fellowships, scholarships, and/or loans.

Seminars on Graduate Education

Students will also attend seminars that outline the particular steps students must complete to earn doctorates, as well as give students many options and strategies for excelling in graduate school. USC faculty members and administrators will conduct the seminars. A list of topics includes the following:

Financial Planning— teaching and research assistantships, national and regional fellowships, financial aid budget management;

GRE Preparation— manuals with software, strategies and resources to help improve scores, explanations on how the test is used to assess an applicant to a graduate program;

Cultural Diversity in Higher Education— the role of higher education in American society, the under-representation of minorities in higher education, the expected impact of a more diverse faculty;

Role of Faculty in Higher Education— teaching, research, public service, career options for academics, faculty governance, the tenure and promotion process;

Library Research Skills— a specialized database and resource tour of USC libraries, opportunities for students to work with librarians in their fields;

Making the Most of Graduate School— fundamentals of earning a degree, rewards and opportunities of graduate study, maintaining relations with faculty, overcoming uncertainty, plans toward completion of degree.

Graduate education is an exciting venture with many options for those who earn doctorates. The seminars will make this apparent to students by exposing them to a wide variety of academics and administrators who can answer specific questions and who might be able to assist them in the future.

Cultural and Social Events

McNair students will participate in cultural enrichment and social events during the SRC. The McNair program will also host weekly events or dinners to create opportunities for informal exchanges between students and faculty.

ACADEMIC YEAR ACTIVITIES

The McNair Program will host seminars during the academic year, as well as provide opportunities for further research. These seminars might address the following topics:

- Vitae and résumé writing
- GRE preparation
- Study and writing skills
- Cultural enrichment
- Graduate school preparation

Faculty mentoring will also continue throughout the fall and spring following the Summer Research Component. The mentors will write brief reports of these meetings in order to keep records of student progress toward graduate school placement and to identify problems the students might encounter. Students may also continue work on their research in related projects and/or independent study courses.

Return the following application and all of its supporting forms on or before December 16, 2011 to:

Ronald E. McNair
Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program
TRIO Programs
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
Fax (803) 777-7380

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Please type or print in black ink

Personal Data

Legal Name: _____
Last/Family First Middle (complete) Jr., etc. gender

Prefer to be called: _____ (nickname) Former last name(s) if any: _____

Permanent home address: _____
Number and Street

City or Town County State Zip Code

If different from the above, please give your local mailing address:

Local address: _____
Number and Street

City or Town County State Zip Code use until: _____

Cell or Phone at local address: (____) _____ Permanent home phone: (____) _____

E-mail address: #1 _____

E-mail address: #2 _____

Birth date: _____ Marital Status: _____ Number of dependents _____

Citizenship: _____ U.S. _____ U.S. Permanent Resident visa _____ Other (citizenship: _____)

TRIO Participation: _____ Upward Bound _____ Talent Search/EOC _____ Student Support Services

Location of TRIO Project Director phone

Social Security Number: _____

First language, if other than English: _____ Language spoken at home: _____

If you wish to be identified with a particular ethnic group, please check the following:

African American, Black _____	Mexican American, Chicano _____
American Indian _____	Native Hawaiian _____
Asian American _____	Puerto Rican _____
Asia (Indian Subcontinent) _____	White or Caucasian _____
Hispanic, Latino _____	Other (specify _____)

Did either of your parents complete a four-year college degree? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, who completed the degree? ___ Mother ___ Father ___ Guardian

Financial Aid Data

For financial aid purposes are you considered _____ dependent or _____ independent?

IF DEPENDENT COMPLETE SECTION A; IF INDEPENDENT COMPLETE SECTION B

SECTION A

Number of household members, including yourself: _____

Parents' 2010 taxable income (Line 43 on 1040 form): _____

SECTION B

Number of household members, including yourself, spouse, and/or other dependents: _____

2010 taxable income (Line 43 on 1040 form): _____

Please attach a copy of your most recent Financial Aid Form (either FAFSA or SAR) and a copy of the 2009 federal income tax forms for documentation.

Academic Data

CURRENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: _____

CLASS STANDING: _____ freshman _____ sophomore _____ junior _____ senior

Number of course hours completed: _____ Major: _____

Number of course hours currently enrolled: _____ Expected graduation date: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Major GPA: _____

PLEASE LIST ANY ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

AWARD	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC/CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LIST ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED:

NAME OF INSTITUTION	DATE(S)
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Academic Advisor: _____
Name Title Phone

If you have prior research experience in a university setting, briefly describe what you accomplished and name the professor with whom you worked.

Letters of Recommendation

Whom have you asked to write your letters of recommendation?

FACULTY MEMBER

PHONE NUMBER

FACULTY MEMBER

PHONE NUMBER

Personal Essay

Write and submit a 500-word essay (approximately 2.5 double-spaced pages) explaining

1. Why you want to pursue a Ph.D.;
2. Your short- and long-term career goals;
3. Your specific research interests.

Program Agreement

I understand that participation in the TRIO McNair Program is both an academic year and summer commitment. If selected for participation, I will attend all meetings. I will also maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and apply to three graduate schools. The TRIO McNair Program will assist me with these tasks. If my goals change so that they no longer include graduate school, I will notify the program administrators.

If I am selected for the six-week summer research component, I will work with faculty in my academic department to develop a topic for summer research that involves the sustainability model, complete the research methodology and other courses offered by the TRIO McNair Program, and complete a research paper and presentation. I will make the most of the mentoring, research opportunities, support services, and stipend that the McNair Program offers.

Student Signature

Date

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

Academic Transcripts

I, _____, hereby give permission to The TRIO McNair Program at The University of South Carolina to have access to my past and future academic transcripts as provided by the Registrar's Office at all colleges and universities I have attended. These transcripts will be used only to meet the requirements for the U.S. Department of Education in qualifying for the program and maintaining records with regard to my enrollment.

Signature

Date

Student ID #

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

Financial Aid

I, _____, hereby give permission to The TRIO McNair Program at The University of South Carolina to have access to financial aid information in order to provide income information necessary in the eligibility and advising process.

Signature

Date

Student ID #

