UofSC TRIO PROGRAMS

Ronald E. McNair
Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Consider a PhD in Your Future

The Program Provides:

- *A 6-week Paid Summer Residential Research Internship*

- *Workshops on what you Need to Know to get into the Graduate Program of your Choice*

- *Workshops on Funding Your Graduate Education*

- *Free GRE Prep Materials and Tutoring*

- *Travel to National Conference to present Your Research*

- *Cultural Events and More….*

Program Requirements:

- *U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident*

- *First Generation and Pell Grant Eligible College student; or a Student who is a Member of an Under-represented Group in Higher Education*

- *Current Sophomore or Junior at a 4-year Higher Education Institution*

- *GPA of 3.0 or Higher*

- *Strong Desire to Pursue the PhD*

All Majors are encouraged to apply

Student Application

Ronald E. McNair

Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Application

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RONALD E. MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Please carefully review 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 Ronald E. McNair program, an applicant must be:

1.   A U.S. citizen or resident alien

2.   A regularly enrolled student at a 4-year college or university in South Carolina,

3.   A first-generation, low-income student or a member of an underrepresented minority in doctoral studies, and

4.   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, UofSC TRiO requires applicants to have completed at least 60 course credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree. **Students with previous TRiO involvement receive enrollment preference. STEM majors are especially encouraged to apply.**

If selected for participation, students must participate in the six-week **Summer Research Component (SRC),** which usually runs from mid-May through the end of June.

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 your department to define a project for the Summer Research Component. A detailed proposal of the project with a timeline will be due to the program prior to orientation which will take place in early spring.

3. If possible, continue working with this faculty member on this research in the fall following your Summer Research Component.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1

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. U of SC 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 relationships with faculty
- Invaluable advisement on the graduate school application process and GRE preparation
- 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 28 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 and first-generation) or under-represented in graduate education
- At least 60 credit hours completed toward a baccalaureate degree
- A cumulative GPA of no less than 3.0 is preferred
- A US citizenship or permanent US resident, which is indicated by eligibility to receive federal financial aid.

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. McNair administrators and faculty approve all proposed research projects.

Initial enrollment activities also include appointments at the University of South Carolina TRiO Programs office to meet McNair administrators and complete registration materials, attendance at two McNair orientation meetings, and the State-Wide McNair Symposium held during the summer.

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, and received approval of their abstract by the McNair program, he or she will begin the SRC and complete the research project **under weekly supervision of McNair faculty**. All students are expected to make exceptional progress with their research projects and will present their work at the annual SAEOPP TRiO McNair Research Conference.

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 outlines the particular steps students must complete to earn doctorates, as well as give students many options and strategies for excelling in graduate school. U of SC faculty members and administrators will conduct the seminars. Topics includes, but is not limited to, 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 U of SC libraries, opportunities for students to work with librarians in their fields; and

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 other events or dinners to create opportunities for informal exchanges between students and faculty.

ACADEMIC YEAR ACTIVITIES

UNIV 401– McNair Capstone Class

Students will enroll in a one-credit hour seminar course in the Fall semester. The seminar will be led by the McNair Director and will expand on the summer seminar activities. With the aid of the McNair Director and research mentors, students will complete application materials to at least three graduate programs.

The McNair Program will also host additional 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
- Fellowship application 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.

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

Please type or print in black ink

Personal Data

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____- _____ - _____

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

Preferred name: _____ (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

_____ use until: _____
City or Town   County   State   Zip Code

Cell Phone : (_____) _____   Permanent home phone: (_____) _____

E-mail address: #1 (preferably your school email)_____

E-mail address: #2 _____

Birth date: _____   Applicant's Marital Status: _____   Number of dependents _____

Citizenship: _____ U.S.   _____ U.S. Permanent Resident visa.   _____ Other

TRIO Participation: _____ Upward Bound   _____Talent Search _____Student Support Services (OSP) _____EOC

_____
Location of TRiO Project

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

Emergency Contact Name: _____Emergency Contact Number: _____

Emergency Contact Relationship to Applicant: _____

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' taxable income from most recent income tax return (Line 43 on 1040 form): _____

SECTION B

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

      Taxable income from most recent income tax return (Line 43 on 1040 form): _____

Please attach a copy of your most recent Financial Aid Form (either FAFSA or SAR) **OR a copy of your (your parents') most recent, signed federal income tax forms** for documentation. *All financial documentation must be signed.*

Academic Data

CURRENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY: _____

CLASS STANDING: _____ sophomore _____ junior

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. You may add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.

_____

_____

*You may attach an additional sheet of paper if needed

APPLICANT ASSESSMENT

Section I.   Short Answer Questions

Please answer the following questions (one or two paragraphs)

1. Why you are interested in conducting research?

2. Have you conducted any previous research projects, either independently or with a professor? If so, please explain the nature of the project.

3. What are your long-term career goals? Why are you interested in this particular career?

4. Have you considered studying for a PhD? Why or Why not?

Section II.   Personal Essay

Write a concise essay (not more than three pages, double spaced, 12 point font) describing a challenge (s) or obstacles you have faced in life. Explain how you overcame this challenge. Be specific about how this challenge has helped to shape the person that you are today; what you have learned about overcoming challenges; and how it has helped you set your goals for the future.

Section III.   Preliminary Research Proposal (Abstract)

Please submit a brief statement (two to three paragraphs) explaining your research idea. Pease include:

1. A Title

2. What question (s) do you wish to answer about this subject?

3. Why are you interested in this particular topic? Why do you think this is important?

Please indicate whether you have discussed this with a faculty member in your department or at your institution. Please be reminded that should you be accepted a McNair Scholar you will have the opportunity to change or expound on this topic.

UofSC TRiO McNair Scholars Recommendation Form:

1. Please complete the bottom portion of pp. 13 and 16 before giving to your recommenders

2. Remove the pages from the application booklet, and give them to your faculty recommenders for completion.

3. One of your recommenders should receive pp.13, 14, and 15; the other should receive pp. 16,17, and 18

4. Faculty members may write a letter and attach to the recommendation form if they so desire.

5. Letters and forms should be sent back by the recommender

6. UofSC Columbia faculty recommenders are welcome to send the letters/forms via campus mail.

Recommendation Materials may be returned by:

 US Postal Service to:

TRIO McNair Program
University of South Carolina
1400 Wheat Street, Room 209
Columbia, SC 29208

OR

Faxed to:
803-777-7380
Attention: Dr. Sharon Lee White

OR

Emailed to:
Dr. Sharon Lee White at Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

UofSC TRiO McNair Scholars Recommendation Form:

To The Recommender:

The TRiO McNair Program prepares selected undergraduate students for graduate study in a Ph.D. program. Students conduct research under the mentorship of faculty, attend graduate education seminars, and engage in other activities that prepare them for graduate study. Please help us assess the promise and motivation of this student to benefit fully from this program.

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TRIO McNair Program
University of South Carolina
1400 Wheat Street, Room 209
Columbia, SC 29208
OR

Via Fax at:
803-777-7380
Attention: Dr. Sharon Lee White

Or

Via Email at:
Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT:

Please complete this portion and submit to your recommender.
 Please print

_____   _____   _____   _____
Last Name   *First Name*   *M.I.*   *Undergraduate Major*

_____   _____
Email   *Phone*

OPTIONAL: I UNDERSTAND THAT THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (P.L. 93-380) AS AMENDED PROVIDES ME ACCESS TO THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I VOLUNTARILY WAIVE THIS RIGHT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FAILURE TO GRANT THIS WAIVER WILL NOT ALTER MY CHANCES FOR ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM.

_____   _____
Date   *Applicant's Signature*

Please ☑ **the cells indicating your evaluation of this applicant's abilities and potential.**

In terms of the criterion below, the applicant is:	Exceptional	Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	I do not know
Likelihood of successful completion of a						
Likelihood of successful completion of a						

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge or you may write a letter addressing these issues:

1. What characteristics does this student possesses that will serve him or her well in graduate school?

2. In what areas does the student need to improve before enrolling in a graduate program? Is the student aware of her/his need to improve in these areas and is he/she doing anything to address this need?

3. What individual or academic obstacles could negatively impact this student's ability to be admitted to and/or complete graduate school?

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Name (print) _____ *Title* _____ *Department* _____

E-mail _____ *Phone* _____

_____ _____
Signature   *Date*

UofSC TRiO McNair Scholars Recommendation Form:

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The TRiO McNair Program prepares selected undergraduate students for graduate study in a Ph.D. program. Students conduct research under the mentorship of faculty, attend graduate education seminars, and engage in other activities that prepare them for graduate study. Please help us assess the promise and motivation of this student to benefit fully from this program.

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Attention: Dr. Sharon Lee White

Via Email at:
Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT:

Please complete this portion and submit to your recommender.
 Please print

_____   _____   _____   _____
Last Name   *First Name*   *M.I.*   *Undergraduate Major*

_____   _____
Email   *Phone*

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_____   _____
Date   *Applicant's Signature*

Please ☑ **the cells indicating your evaluation of this applicant's abilities and potential.**

In terms of the criterion below, the applicant is:	Exceptional	Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	I do not know
Likelihood of successful completion of a						
Likelihood of successful completion of a						

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. (An attached letter may be substituted).

1. What characteristics does this student possesses that will serve him or her well in graduate school?

2. In what areas does the student need to improve before enrolling in a graduate program? Is the student aware of her/his need to improve in these areas and is he/she doing anything to address this need?

3. What individual or academic obstacles could negatively impact this student's ability to be admitted to and/ or complete graduate school?

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_____   _____   _____
Name (print)   *Title*   *Department*

_____   _____
E-mail   *Phone*

_____   _____
Signature   *Date*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program

Release of Information Form

Academic Transcripts

Please print a copy of your unofficial transcripts to-date to turn in with you application.

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 #

Return the following portion of the application and all of its supporting documents (See Page 2

Checklist:

_____   Application form (pp9 and 10)

_____   Signed copy of federal income tax form **OR a** signed copy of most recent FAFSA or
              SARS

_____   Applicant Assessment (p. 11)
         _____   Personal essay (1-3 page maximum)

         _____   Answer to "Short Answer" questions

         _____   Research topic proposal (1-2 paragraphs in length)

         _____   Copy of unofficial transcripts

_____   Academic and Financial Release of Information forms (pp. 19, 20)

Return Completed Application and Supporting Documents via:

 US Postal Service to:

TRIO McNair Program
University of South Carolina
1400 Wheat Street, Room 209
Columbia, SC 29208

OR

Faxed to:
803-777-7380
Attention: Dr. Sharon Lee White

OR

Emailed to:
Dr. Sharon Lee White at Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

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.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
TRiO Programs
University of South Carolina
1400 Wheat Street
Columbia, SC 29208
Fax (803) 777-7380

Should you need further Assistance, please contact Dr. Sharon Lee White, Director of McNair Scholars Program at (803)777-5125 or Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

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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.
 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.

Ronald E. McNair