



I ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

ARE YOU A POTENTIAL E.M.E.R.G.E. SCHOLAR?

(Engaging McNair Scholars in Excellence, Resilience, and Graduate Education)

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program is one of the most successful graduate education pipelines in the country. Eligible undergraduate applicants gain research experience, GRE preparation, mentorship, and professional experiences that make them competitive graduate school aspirants. If you are eligible to apply (Citizen or permanent resident of the US, currently enrolled as a full time students at UIUC, junior or senior status, 1st generation, low-income, at least 2.85 GPA, and underrepresented minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander), and willing to meet the expectations of the program, proceed to Page 2 to begin the application process.

Deliverables and benefits are below:

DELIVERABLES*

Annual Scholarly Research Papers
Regular Research Mentor Meetings
Participation in Graduate School Fairs
Minimum 5 Grad School Application Submissions
Annual On-Campus Research Presentations
Annual On & Off Conference Presentations
Spring Research Seminar Course Completion
GRE Preparation
Summer Research Institute
Deliverables are subject to change based
on programmatic needs

BENEFITS

Enrollment in Graduate Education
PhD Graduate School Application Waiver
GRE Fee Reduction Voucher
Research Mentorship
Conference Travel
Training and Exposure to Campus Presentations
One-On-One Mentoring
Peer Mentoring
On-Campus Summer Research Stipend
Travel Grants

HOW TO APPLY:

Read the entire information packet

Complete the entire application

(Including: Recommendation Form, Interest Essay, Transcript, Tax Documentation, and Financial Assessment & Documentation Form)

Contact program staff to schedule interview

Additional Questions?

Vincent Cunningham, Associate Director of TRIO Programs
610 E. John Street, Suite 130 Student Services Bldg.
217-333-0054 • triomcnair@illinois.edu

Note: Please do not apply if you cannot participate in ALL program activities. Participation in the 6-week on-campus Summer Research Institute is MANDATORY.

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Enrollment Application Checklist

Thank you for applying to the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Please complete the following prior to submitting your application:

Application Requirements:

- Completed Application
- Personal Statement (*Why are you interested in the McNair Scholars Program?*)
- Financial Aid Assessment & Documentation Form
- Copy of Parent(s) Federal Tax Returns
- Letter of Recommendation
- Faculty/Research Mentor Form
- Unofficial Transcript
- Scheduled Interview (*Contact McNair Staff at triomcnair@illinois.edu or 217-333-0054*)

FOR FULL CONSIDERATION:

1. Complete all sections of the program application.
2. Identify research mentor and complete *Faculty/Research Mentor Confirmation Form*.
3. Identify instructor, employer, or community partner and complete *Recommendation Form*.
4. Complete top portion of the *Financial Needs Assessment & Documentation Form*
5. Acquire parent(s)/caregivers federal tax returns.
6. Schedule interview with McNair Staff.
7. Submit ALL materials (application and supplemental documentation) to McNair office.



I ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

Application Assistance:

1. **Personal Statement:** Answer the questions (Why are you interested in the McNair Scholars Program? Why do you want to attend graduate school and earn the Ph.D.?) in a minimum of one page, a double-spaced document attached as a PDF to the application.
2. **Unofficial Transcript:** Find it via Student Self-Service, under 'Registration & Records', then 'Student Records and Transcripts', then 'View Academic History'. Please save it as a PDF and attach it to your application.
3. **Financial Aid Assessment & Documentation Form:** on the page titled “Financial Need Assessment & Documentation Form” complete the top portion of the form and submit it to the financial aid office, using the Office of Financial Aid’s Document Upload system <https://osfa.illinois.edu/documentupload/> The Office of Financial Aid will complete the bottom portion and will return to our office.
4. **Note:** McNair does not serve students who are interested in the MBA, LAW, or MD degree.
5. Submit all McNair application materials to triomcnair@illinois.edu
6. It is possible to submit the application without an agreed Faculty/Research Mentor and completed Recommendation Form. Note in your application email that you are in the process of receiving these materials. Please note, we cannot fully process your application without these items. Please reach out to McNair staff if you are having trouble identifying Faculty to work with for the Faculty/Research Mentor Confirmation Form.



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

McNair Scholars Program Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

_____		_____		_____	
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
_____		_____		_____	
Campus Address		Apt	City	State	Zip code
(____)		(____)			
_____		_____		_____	
Campus Telephone		Cell Phone			
_____		_____		_____	
Permanent Home Address		Apt	City	State	Zip code
(____)		_____		_____	
_____		_____		_____	
Permanent Home Telephone		University Identification Number (UIN)			
_____		Sex: MALE <input type="checkbox"/>		FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date of Birth					
School E-mail Address: _____					
Personal/Alternative E-mail Address: _____					

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Academic Standing:

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Are you a transfer student? Yes No

College: _____ Department: _____

Major: _____

of credits earned to date: _____ # of credit currently enrolled: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Major GPA: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION Cont.

- First-generation college student: Yes No
- Did one of your parents graduate from a 4-year institution? Yes No
- Which parent completed their bachelor's degree? Father Mother Both
- Which parent do you live with? Father Mother Both
- Ethnic Identification: Are you Hispanic/Latino? Yes No

Race (Check all that apply):

- African American/Black Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaskan Native White/Caucasian
- Asian American
- Other (specify _____)

Citizenship:

- U.S. Citizen (Born or Naturalized)
- U.S. Permanent Resident: Submit a copy if your permanent resident card with this application.
- Adjustment in Status (Submitted application for permanent residency). Submit documentation.

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty? Yes No

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- For financial aid purposes are you considered: Dependent Independent
- Are you currently eligible to receive financial aid? Yes No
- Who claims you as a dependent for tax purposes? Mother Father Yourself
- With whom do you live when not at the University? Mother Father Both Guardians
- Are you a homeless individual? Yes No

If Dependent Complete Section A; If Independent Complete Section B

SECTION A: Parent(s) Tax Information

Total federal **TAXABLE** income: _____

Number of immediate family members in household, including yourself: _____



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

FINANCIAL INFORMATION Cont.

SECTION B: Applicant's Tax Information

Total federal **TAXABLE** income: _____

Number of immediate family members in YOUR household, including yourself: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Are you a participant or alum of any of the following (Check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gear UP | <input type="checkbox"/> | President's Award Program (PAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student Support Services (SSS) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Talent Search | <input type="checkbox"/> | James Scholar Program | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Upward Bound | <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Promise | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Evans Scholar Program | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Membership and participation in academic/campus organizations and activities:

Activity	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Graduate School of Interest (Check all that apply): Master's MBA LAW MD PHD

What is your graduate program area of interest: _____

Do you understand that McNair only provides services to students who desire a PHD?

- Yes No



I ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

APPLICANT AGREEMENT

Please read carefully and sign. By submitting an application for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of Illinois, I acknowledge the following:

- I understand that I am expected to enroll in graduate school the fall after I graduate from my undergraduate institution and that I am expected to receive a Ph.D. within ten years of receiving my baccalaureate degree.
- I understand that the mission of the program is to prepare participants to be the next generation of scientists, researchers, and professors through rigorous graduate school preparation, academic development, and research training.
- I understand that I am not guaranteed acceptance to the TRIO McNair Scholars Program by virtue of having submitted this application.
- All information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I understand that if McNair discovers that I have provided any false information, I am subject to removal from the program.
- I understand that I may need to provide verification of my or my parent(s)' most recent federal taxable income.
- I understand that the McNair stipend will be processed through the Office of Student Financial Aid and will be considered a part of the scholar's total aid package for the academic year which may result in receiving reduced or no stipend depending on financial aid package. Students should speak directly with financial aid for questions.

Certification and Form Submission

I certify that the information contained within this agreement is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

Financial Need Assessment & Documentation Form

Applicant Only:

I authorize the Office of Financial Aid at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to release income tax information, need analysis and financial aid information to the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This information is needed to verify that this student has an income level established by the U.S. Department of Education. This information is essential to the selection process. Your cooperation is appreciated immensely.

Student Printed Name

Student University Identification Number (UIN)

Student Signature

Date

Financial Aid Department:

The official confidential statement at the Financial Aid Office confirms the following information for the student registered above:

- **TAXABLE** income: _____
- Family Size: _____
- Expected Family Contribution: _____
- Number of Exemptions: _____
- Pell Grant Amount: _____

Printed Name and Position of Financial Aid Official

Signature of Financial Aid Official

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Office of Minority Student Affairs
610 E. John Street Suite 130
Champaign, IL 61820
Email: triomcnair@illinois.edu

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



I ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

RECOMMENDATION FORM

This section is to be completed by the applicant. ***Please print and fill.***

Last Name First Middle

I hereby WAIVE my right of access to all letters of recommendation sent to TRIO McNair Program at University of Illinois.

I do NOT waive my right of access to all letters of recommendation sent to TRIO McNair Program at University of Illinois.

This waiver is not required as a condition for admission to or receipt of any other services and benefits from the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

Date: _____

Signatures: _____

This section is to be completed by the evaluator. A written letter to accompany this form is encouraged, but not required. Please return directly to the address below or email to Assistant Director at triomcnair@illinois.edu:

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Office of Minority Student Affairs
610 E. John Street, Suite130
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217-265-4962

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? Give dates if possible.

What is your frank appraisal of the applicant's promise as a graduate student and future Scholar?



I ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

In comparing a group of students in the same field who have had approximately the same amount of experience and training, how does the applicant rate in the following areas?

KEY: Below average (BA) = lowest 40%; Average (A) = middle 20%; Somewhat above average (SAA) = next 15%; Good (G) = next highest 15 %; Outstanding (O) = highest 10%; N/A = Unable to judge

	BA	A	SAA	G	O	N/A
Academic aptitude and potential for graduate work.						
Present academic performance.						
Motivation for the pursuit of advanced graduate study.						
Capacity to teach						
Ability to follow directions.						
Maturity						
Meeting Deadlines						
Participating in teams						
Working Independently						

Signature _____ Title _____ Institution _____

Name _____ Date _____ Phone _____
 (Please type or print)

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

Faculty/Research Mentor Confirmation or Change Form

* Please type all information, email to McNair Staff and to faculty mentor, and keep a copy*

Date Completed	
Scholar's Name	
Scholar's Email	
Scholar's Phone	
Major	
College/School which houses the student's major (e.g., College of Engineering)	
Purpose of the research project (e.g., To investigate factors contributing to academic success of first-generation college students)	
Proposed period of time the student will work on the project	
Faculty/Research mentor's contact information¹ A. Name and exact title/rank B. Office Address C. Email D. Phone	
Mentor's Signature indicating that she or he agrees to the Mentor Responsibilities²	
Scholar Signature indicating that she or he agrees to the Scholar Responsibilities	

¹ Research mentor includes faculty with earned Ph.D. and graduate student with a research assistantship.

² Mentors can also email their approval to OMSA McNair Staff at triomcnair@illinois.edu.



ILLINOIS

Office of Minority Student Affairs

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES³

You have been invited to serve as a Faculty/Research Mentor for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign McNair Scholars Program. National TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Programs (McNair Scholars Programs) are designed to prepare students for the professoriate. McNair Programs provide eligible students with academic services and activities geared toward graduate school readiness, intensive research experiences, and doctoral studies. Faculty/Research Mentors play a major role in preparing promising scholars for the rigors of doctoral study, scholarship in general, and the professoriate. The following responsibilities are designed to clarify mentors' roles and to encourage total student success.

1. Provide guidance, assistance, and oversight to mentee to ensure that a minimum of **10 hours of research during the fall and spring semesters** are completed each week.
2. Meet with mentee at least once a month during the fall and spring semesters to: ensure that mentee is making progress on agreed-upon research; discuss strategies for applying to and being accepted into graduate school; and discuss issues related to the professoriate.
3. Assist mentee with identifying opportunities and resources to **present at professional conferences**, and invite mentee to **collaborate on manuscripts** related to the research topic.
4. Supervise mentees in their **completion of a research paper** that adheres to the writing guidelines of your discipline

SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES

McNair Scholars are expected to enroll in graduate school during the fall semester immediately following graduation and earn a Ph.D. or joint Ph.D. within 10 years of receiving their bachelor's degree. To prepare for this career trajectory, scholars are required to engage in faculty-sponsored research each semester under the following guidelines:

1. Under the direction of the research mentor, scholars will engage in a minimum of **10 hours of research during the fall and spring semesters** each week.
2. Enroll in independent research credit or honors thesis credit under their mentor's guidance.
3. Meet with mentors in person at least once a month, and send them a weekly update of your work through email.
4. **Present at one or more professional conference** during the academic year, and collaborate with mentor on manuscripts related to the research topic.
5. **Complete a research paper** that adheres to the writing guidelines of your discipline. Your paper must be approved by your mentor and submitted to the McNair staff by the end of the spring semester.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding scholar and faculty responsibilities, please contact OMSA McNair staff at triomcnair@illinois.edu

³ Research Assistants may assist in the aforementioned areas and may serve as a co-Faculty/Research Mentor but may not serve as the official Faculty Mentor.

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.