2018 Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Application  
Georgia Southern University  
Statesboro Campus

Application deadline: April 15, 2018

Fill out application online, print and sign (signature is required).  
Hand deliver or mail application to: College of Science and  
Mathematics Advisement Center, McNair Scholars, Georgia  
Southern University, PO Box 8044-1, Statesboro, GA 30460

Interview Dates: TBD (mid-late April)

Required Orientation Dates:  
TBD (Week of May 14)

Statement of Confidentiality: The information requested in this application is for the purpose of determining the applicant’s eligibility for the McNair Scholars Program. Information received is treated as confidential.
Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program:
The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 151 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and have demonstrated strong academic potential. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase graduate degree awards for students from underrepresented segments of society.

Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.:
Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. While in junior high school, Dr. McNair was inspired to work hard and persevere in his studies by his family and by a teacher who recognized his scientific potential and believed in him. Dr. McNair graduated as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967. In 1971, he graduated magna cum laude and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro). Dr. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in laser physics. His dissertation was titled, “Energy Absorption and Vibrational Heating in Molecules Following Intense Laser Excitation.” Dr. McNair was presented an honorary doctorate of Laws from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978, an honorary doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, and an honorary doctorate of science from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

While working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory, Dr. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics. His many distinctions include being a Presidential Scholar (1971-74), a Ford Foundation Fellow (1971-74), a National Fellowship Fund Fellow (1974-75), and a NATO Fellow (1975). He was also a sixth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished saxophonist. Because of his many accomplishments, he was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978. His first space shuttle mission launched successfully from Kennedy Space Center on February 3, 1984. Dr. Ronald E. McNair was the second African American to fly in space. Two years later he was selected to serve as mission specialist aboard the ill-fated U.S. Challenger space shuttle. He was killed instantly when the Challenger exploded one minute, thirteen seconds after it was launched. Dr. McNair was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. After his death in the Challenger Space Shuttle accident on January 28, 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Their goal was to encourage low-income and first-generation college students, and students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups to expand their educational opportunities by enrolling in a Ph.D. program and ultimately pursue an academic career. This program is dedicated to the high standards of achievement inspired by Dr. McNair’s life.

(from https://mcnairscholars.com/about/)
THE MCNAIR PROGRAM ASSISTS YOU WITH LEARNING HOW TO BE A RESEARCHER SO THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO PURSUE A PHD. THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF A RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE SUMMER, WORKSHOPS (SUMMER AND DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR), TRAININGS, MENTORSHIP AND STIPENDS FOR RESEARCH, HOUSING, AND TRAVEL TO BOTH CONFERENCES AND VISITS TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS. MCNAIR FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY, PARTICIPATE AND RECEIVE SERVICES.

***BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION***
Consider the following carefully to determine your eligibility for the McNair Scholars Program.

McNair Scholars Eligibility Checklist—Please check the boxes that apply to you:
☐ Must be interested in obtaining a Ph.D. degree (preferably in a STEM discipline) ¹
☐ Must have completed more than 60 hours by end of Spring 2018
☐ Must have a GPA of at least 3.0 by the end of Fall 2017
Must be Either: ☐ a low-income² AND first-generation college student³
Or ☐ underrepresented in higher education⁴
☐ Must be either a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States
☐ Must be enrolled at Georgia Southern University (any campus) in Spring 2018 and reenrolled for Fall 2018 (any campus)
☐ Must be available to do research and attend required workshops during 8 weeks the in Summer 2018 term (May 14-July 30). Start and end dates may be flexible due to advisor research project and schedule. Workshop and orientation attendance is mandatory! Workshops and primary research location in Summer 2018 is the Statesboro campus. Housing assistance is provided.

If you have checked all the boxes above, then you are eligible to apply to become a McNair Scholar.
Please return these checklists with your application.

Application Materials Checklist—Please use this list to complete your application.
☐ Complete and Signed Application (electronic submissions not accepted)
☐ 2016 Tax Return (Summary only. This is usually 1-2 pages long.)
☐ Unofficial Transcripts

¹The McNair Scholars Program is strictly for students who are committed to pursuing a Ph.D. degree. Students interested in medical, legal, or other professional degrees should not apply. Students who go on to pursue an M.D., a J.D., D.D.S., and other Master’s or professional degrees may be required to repay the McNair award.
³The US Department of Education defines first-generation college student as a student who has not resided with, or received primary support from, a parent who has received a B.A. degree or its equivalent.
⁴African American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American students are considered underrepresented in higher education.
Allowable Income:  [See the U.S. Dept. of Education website]  
https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html.

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**THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY McNAIR STAFF**

This student is eligible for McNair? (Please)  
- □ YES  
- □ NO

Documentation:

- □ Signed Application
- □ Tax Return
- □ Verification from other government agency
- □ SAR or other documentation
- □ Signed FA Application
- □ Other documentation (please specify): ________________

_________________________  ______________________
Staff                                    Date

_________________________  ______________________
Assistant Director                    Date