



KEAN

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

McNair Scholars Program



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Program Overview

The McNair Scholars Program one of eight federally funded TRiO programs. TRiO programs help low-income and first-generation Americans enter college, graduate, and participate in America's economic and social life. Kean University has been selected by the United States Department of Education as one of nearly 180 host institutions to facilitate a McNair Scholars Program. At Kean, the program functions under the auspices of the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences.

OUR MISSION

To promote academic excellence at Kean University by preparing low-income, first generation, and traditionally underrepresented students in graduate education for doctoral studies through faculty mentorship, scholarly research and support services.

The McNair Scholars Program is a year-round project comprised of two components: 1) Summer Research Institute (SRI) and 2) Academic Year Component. Once admitted, our scholars are expected to participate in the program until they attain their undergraduate degree. Also, we will monitor our scholars' progress while they pursue their respective doctoral degrees.

Summer Research Institute

McNair Scholars participate in a Summer Research Institute (SRI). During the summer, participants engage in research with Kean University professors who serve as faculty mentors. Participants take courses designed to strengthen the necessary skills and knowledge for success in graduate study. In addition, the program offers seminars for the graduate admissions process, academic and career counseling, cultural enrichment, personal development workshops and campus visits to graduate schools.

Academic Year Component

During the fall and spring semesters, McNair Scholars continue their research and participate in our annual symposium, special seminars and other scholarly activities. They also receive assistance in preparing for graduate school entrance examinations, applying to graduate schools, identifying sources of financial aid and completing the admissions process. An exciting aspect of the program is the opportunity for students to expand their classroom experiences and engage in ongoing research internships with a faculty mentor while earning college credits towards their undergraduate degree.

Program Benefits

- ✚ Hands-on research
- ✚ Research Stipend of \$2000
- ✚ Application fee waivers at selected institutions
- ✚ College credits for ongoing research
- ✚ Tutoring and supplemental instruction
- ✚ GRE preparation and fee reductions
- ✚ Campus visits to graduate school
- ✚ Personal coaching and advisement
- ✚ Career guidance, resume/CV writing and assistance with application process
- ✚ Cultural enrichment and personal development seminars
- ✚ Paid travel to professional and research conferences

McNair Scholars Program Application Pre-Screening

Your application cannot be evaluated unless a) you meet program eligibility requirements and b) you have completed and submitted all of the necessary materials by the application deadline. In order to be eligible for selection, please make sure that you meet the following criteria:

- ✚ A U.S. citizen or permanent resident (documentation such as a copy of your social security card or permanent resident card is required).
- ✚ First generation (neither parent nor guardian has a bachelor's degree) **AND** low-income per federal guidelines; **OR** Member of a group underrepresented in graduate education (i.e. African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American or Native Alaskan).
- ✚ Minimum of 56 credits by the end of the Spring semester.
- ✚ 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- ✚ A strong desire to pursue a Ph.D. in any major (preferably in the STEM field)

MCNAIR PROGRAM APPLICATION

DIRECTIONS: Please complete this application in its entirety and attach all supporting materials. Completed applications must be submitted by the specified deadline. A typed application is required. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. All information is strictly confidential.

SECTION I—APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ First Name: _____

Home/Campus Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home/Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Kean ID#: _____ SSN# _____ Date of birth: _____ Gender: M F

Ethnic Heritage (Please check only one for reporting purposes): African American Hispanic/Latino

American Indian/Alaskan Native Caucasian Asian American Other (Please Specify) _____

Citizenship: U.S. Citizen Permanent Resident (Please attach a copy of documentation for proof of citizenship)

SECTION II—ACADEMIC INFORMATION

I am currently a: Sophomore Junior Senior Degree Sought: B.A. B.S. Other _____

Total credits completed as of today's date: _____

Date of initial enrollment at Kean University: _____

Are you presently in school for your first bachelor's degree? Yes No

Major(s): _____ Minor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Number of credits earned: _____ Graduation date: _____

Do you intend to pursue a doctoral degree? Yes No Maybe If yes, what discipline? _____

Are you a transfer student? Yes No Were you a McNair Scholar at another institution? Yes No

If yes, when and where? _____

Have you participated in Upward Bound Student Support Services Talent Search EEO/EOF

Have you identified a research topic? Yes No I would like to meet with a faculty mentor

If so, please state: _____

Have you identified a possible faculty mentor? Yes No

If so, please state his/her name _____ Department _____

SECTION III—FAMILY INFORMATION

With whom do you reside? Mother Father Both Other (Please Specify): _____

Mother's highest level of educational attainment:

Elementary/ middle school diploma High school diploma Associate's degree
 Bachelor's degree Master's degree Doctorate Some schooling, but no degree was awarded

Father's highest level of educational attainment:

Elementary/ middle school diploma High school diploma Associate's degree
 Bachelor's degree Master's degree Doctorate Some schooling, but no degree was awarded

SECTION IV—FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Do you qualify as a special circumstance independent?

Were you or will be 24 years of age or older by December 31st, 2017? Yes No

Are you an orphan or ward of the court or were you a ward of the court until 18 years old? Yes No

Are you a veteran of the Armed Forces in the United States? Yes No

Are you married? Yes No

Do you have a legal dependent other than a spouse? Yes No

Are you a student for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of other unusual circumstances? Yes No

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please complete step 2.

If your parents claimed you as a dependent on their income tax return, then please complete step 1.

STEP 1

DEPENDENT

What is the size of your parents' household, including siblings, and yourself? _____

Did your parents file a federal income tax return for the previous year? Yes No

If yes, what was their **taxable income**?

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040 (line 43)

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040A (line 27)

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040EZ (line 6)

If no, place a "0" in line for taxable income and attach an explanation.

Attach a copy of all sides of the income tax return

STEP 2

INDEPENDENT

What is the size of your household, including yourself, spouse and other dependents? _____

Did you file a federal income tax return for the previous year? Yes No

If yes, what was your **taxable income**?

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040 (line 43)

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040A (line 47)

\$ _____ IRS Form 1040EZ (line 6)

If no, place a "0" in line for taxable income and attach an explanation.

Attach a copy of all sides of the income tax return

SECTION V—PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please attach your TYPED personal statement (1 page maximum) to your completed application form. The font should be no larger than 12 points and the style should be Times New Roman. In your statement, be sure to discuss all of the following points:

1. Why would you like to become a participant in the Ronald E. McNair Program?
2. What are your academic goals?
3. How will the McNair Program help you reach your academic goals?
4. Why do you want to pursue a graduate degree?
5. In what kind of graduate programs are you interested? Why?

SECTION VI—Resume

Please attach your resume to your completed application form. Do not exceed two pages. You can include honors and awards, extra-curricular activities, conferences presented, publications (if any), work experience, languages, hobbies, etc.

SECTION VII—RECOMMENDATIONS

Please provide us with the names of two (2) faculty members who can assess your aptitude for research and motivation to attend graduate school. Recommendation forms are enclosed and they may be returned in sealed envelopes with the recommender's signature across the flap.

Reference #1

Name: _____ Title: _____

Department: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____ Title: _____

Department: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

SECTION VIII—AFFIRMATION

***** PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AND SIGN BELOW *****

I affirm that all information in this application is correct. I understand that participation in the Summer Research Institute (SRI) will be a priority and I will not take any additional summer courses or assume any other academic responsibilities. If I am accepted as a McNair Scholar, I will participate in all required activities during the academic year. I agree to provide and regularly update contact information as necessary. By accepting admission to the McNair Program, I agree to comply with all program rules, regulations, and future requests for information regarding my educational status until I earn a Ph.D. The program has permission to utilize my name, photographs, and research for the purposes of recruitment, publicity, and tracking.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

Your application cannot be evaluated unless all information has been completed and submitted. We must receive all information by the deadline specified below. Please check all items below prior to submission.

- Completed and signed application
- Academic transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- Proof of citizenship or permanent residency (e.g. birth certificate, social security card, alien registration card, etc.)
- Copy of parent's and/or individual's IRS Form 1040
- Personal Statement
- Resume
- Two (2) recommendations from faculty members (must be returned in sealed envelopes with the recommender's signature across the flap)

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET TO:

**Kean University
McNair Scholars Program
Townsend Hall, Room 206
1000 Morris Avenue
Union, NJ 07083**