Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Low-income and first-generation college student (i.e. neither parent has a Bachelor’s degree); or
- Be a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education.

Applicants must also:

- Be UCLA students majoring in the social sciences or humanities;
- Be third-year or transfer students who have completed between 90 and 175 units by Fall of the application year; and
- Demonstrate academic potential for graduate study.

Please Note: This program is not open to students intending to pursue professional degrees such as business, management, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or law.

How do I apply?

Applications for the UCLA McNair Research Scholars Program are available every year at the start of the Fall quarter. You can find the application online or in 1202 Campbell Hall.

The application components include:

- McNair Application Form
- Personal statement
- Research proposal
- Two letters of recommendation
- UCLA transcript (transfer students are also asked to submit copies of their community college transcripts)

For more information about the application and program requirements, please contact the McNair Assistant Director, Socorro Morales, at smorales@college.ucla.edu.

Contact Us:

University of California Los Angeles
1202 Campbell Hall
Box 951541
Los Angeles, CA 90095

phone: (310) 794-4186
fax: (310) 206-3189
email: smorales@college.ucla.edu
http://www.aap.ucla.edu/graduate-mentoring-and-research-programs/mcnair-research-scholars-program/

UCLA McNair Research Scholars Program
What is McNair?

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented college students for doctoral study and careers in college teaching. McNair is a federally funded program that was named in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

Who was Dr. Ronald E. McNair?

Dr. Ronald E. McNair was the second African American astronaut to join NASA. Born in racially segregated South Carolina, he graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro and received his Ph.D. in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics. He received three honorary doctorates; a score of fellowships and commendations; achieved a black belt in karate; and was an accomplished saxophonist.

He flew his first mission as an astronaut in 1984 and died tragically at the age of 35 when the Challenger space shuttle exploded on lift off in January 1986, killing Dr. Ronald E. McNair and his six colleagues.

Program Overview

Established in 2003, the UCLA McNair Research Scholars Program is an intensive research program that prepares undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in the Humanities, Arts, or Social Sciences, for careers within academia. The two-year program is designed to prepare scholars to apply to, and excel in, the best graduate school programs in the country.

Each year, the program maintains a cohort of 28 juniors and seniors from a variety of disciplines in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The program applies Critical Race Theory to prepare participants to become change agents within academia and beyond, thus fulfilling the program’s motto, to transform the academy.

Program Curriculum

UCLA McNair Research Scholars complete a comprehensive and rigorous two-year academic program under the supervision of the Program Director, Assistant Director, Graduate Mentors, and a Faculty Mentor.

First-year (Winter and Spring)

During their first year in the program, McNair Scholars:

- participate in the UCLA Student Research Program (SRP) under the guidance of a faculty mentor;
- attend weekly seminars designed specifically to guide students through the process of developing their research projects and research methodology; and
- present their research findings at the UCLA Undergraduate Research Week.

Second-year (Fall, Winter, and Spring)

During their second year in the program, McNair Scholars:

- apply to graduate school;
- complete, present, and publish their research project and senior thesis; and
- have the opportunity to submit their thesis for publication.

Program Curriculum (continued)

McNair Summer Research Institute

In the summer between their first and second year in the program, McNair Scholars participate in the intensive six-week UCLA McNair Summer Research Institute. During the Institute, McNair Scholars:

- attend workshops and seminars on academic career opportunities;
- receive GRE tutoring;
- attend writing and research skills seminars;
- prepare for the graduate school application process; and
- present their research at the UCLA and UC Berkeley McNair Research Symposia.

Program Staff:

Alice Ho, Ph.D. | Director
Socorro Morales, Ph.D. | Assistant Director
Brittany Wallace | Office Coordinator