

UCLA McNair Research Program

WHAT IS MCNAIR?

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

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. and careers in 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 majors in the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Physical 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.



Dr. Ronald E. McNair

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

UCLA McNair Research Scholars complete a comprehensive and rigorous two-year academic program with the support of Graduate Student and Faculty Mentors, Program Staff, and a stipend.

YEAR 1

FALL

- ❖ Apply to become a McNair Scholar

WINTER

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Present their research at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week.

SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- ❖ Participate in the intensive six-week residential Institute:
 - ❖ attend writing and research skills seminars;
 - ❖ attend workshops, events, and scholarly activities;
 - ❖ receive GRE tutoring and fee reductions;
 - ❖ prepare for the graduate school application process; and
 - ❖ present their research at McNair Research Conferences.

YEAR 2

- ❖ Apply to graduate school;
- ❖ receive application assistance and fee waivers;
- ❖ Complete, present, and have opportunities to publish their research thesis.

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 Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Life Sciences or Physical Sciences;
- ❖ 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 law, business, management, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, etc.

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.

The application components include:

- ❖ McNair Application Form
- ❖ Personal Statement
- ❖ Research Proposal
- ❖ Two letters of recommendation
- ❖ UCLA transcript (transfer students also submit their Community College transcripts)

TRiO

RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM STAFF

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