

TRIO Collegiate Programs: Ronald E. McNair Scholars

October 3, 2022

TRIO Programs: Providing College Access & Success

TRIO is a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree. More than 800,000 **financially underresourced, first-generation students** and students with disabilities — from sixth grade through college graduation — are served by over 3,100 programs nationally. TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for educational access and retention. TRIO programs provide direct support services for students, and relevant training for directors and staff.

TRIO Programs

Pre-College Programs:

- Talent Search*
- Upward Bound*
- Upward Bound Math and Science

College Programs:

- Student Support Services Programs*
- Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program*
- Veterans Upward Bound
- Educational Opportunity Center

Purpose of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program helps qualified undergraduate students prepare for admission to doctoral programs and the successful pursuit of PhD degrees. Eligible students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are also first-generation AND meet income requirements OR be a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, or Pacific Islander). The McNair Scholars Program provides undergraduates with research experiences, GRE preparation sessions, faculty mentoring, professional skills, and assistance with the graduate school application process at no cost to the student.

The **goal** is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society

Program Objectives

1

Research & Scholarly Activities

90% of McNair Program participants served during the project year will have completed appropriate research or scholarly activities during the McNair Program academic year.

2

Enrollment in Graduate School

60% of McNair Program bachelor's degree recipients (or equivalent) will be accepted and enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program of study by the fall term of the academic year immediately following the completion of the bachelor's degree (or equivalent).

3

First-Year Graduate Retention

60% of first year graduate students will continue to be enrolled in graduate school at the beginning of the fall term of the next academic year.

4

Doctoral Degree Completion

15% of McNair Program participants served who will attain a doctoral degree within ten (10) years of the attainment of the bachelor's degree.

Program Services

Individual program services and activities are provided at no cost to the participants by the McNair Scholars Program and include:

- Individualized academic and personal support from McNair Scholars Program Staff
- Experience conducting research
- A paid summer research experience or internship
- Faculty, graduate student, and peer mentoring
- GRE preparation
- Opportunities to participate in research conferences and visit graduate schools
- Assistance in locating and applying to graduate schools
- Workshops on the graduate school application process, financial aid, scholarships and fellowships
- Supplemental Tutoring (as needed)

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- Be a first-generation college student and meet income requirements or be a student underrepresented by race in graduate education (African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, or Pacific Islander)
- Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at NC State
- Must have a minimum 30 credit hours completed with at least four semesters left before graduation
- Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Must have a desire to attain a Phd or Ed.D. *Please note that an MD or other professional degrees (JD, MBA, PharmD, etc.) are not eligible for the program*

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at NC State serves **26** undergraduate students annually.

Selection Criteria

Students' eligibility for the program does not guarantee selection to the program. Scholars are selected based on the following additional criteria:

- Will be able to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher*
- Provide evidence of experience participating in scholarly research or a strong willingness to conduct research as an undergraduate student.
- Have a commitment to participate in the McNair workshops, seminars, and activities until graduation

After all application materials are received and reviewed, and if it is determined that the student meets the program requirements, an interview will be scheduled with the McNair Scholars Selection Committee.

Application Components & Deadline

A completed TRIO Ronald E. McNair Application will include the following:

1. Completed and Signed Application
2. Two (2) Recommendation Letters and Forms (with at least 1 from a faculty member)
3. Personal Statement
4. Writing Sample (preferably one from a class in major)
5. Resume

Application deadline is set for **October 14, 2022**

Interested in Getting Involved?

Two ways for faculty to get involved:

1. Encourage undergraduate students to apply for the program.
2. Serve as a Faculty Mentor: go.ncsu.edu/mcnairfacultymentor

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