



# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Application

2021-2022

Pathway to a PhD

## The Program

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally funded TRiO program administered by the U.S. Department of Education and serves a diverse group of talented students who are interested in pursuing graduate education and earning a Ph.D. The McNair Scholars Program provides enriching scholastic experiences that prepare eligible students to be successful applicants to competitive graduate programs.

## Eligibility

McNair Scholars are selected on a competitive basis. To be eligible, an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be an undergraduate student with 60 or more credit hours by the start of summer 2021
- Be an undergraduate student **not** graduating prior to May 2021
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Meet one of the following requirements:
  - Be Pell Grant eligible **AND** first-generation college student according to established guidelines, **OR**
  - Be a member of a group underrepresented in graduate education (e.g. Black, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Islander)
- Intend to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation. The McNair Program is not open to students pursuing professional degrees (e.g. veterinary, medical or law degrees)

## Program Requirements

Students must demonstrate a true commitment to pursuing doctoral studies and agree to participate in all of the following:

- Intensive faculty-guided summer research
- A three (3) credit-hour summer research course
- GRE tutoring
- Seminars and Workshops
- Advisement meetings with McNair staff.
- A one (1) credit-hour class during fall of 2021

## Program Benefits:

Students receive a number of benefits by participating in the McNair Scholars Program:

- Free room and board during the summer research component
- Free course and study materials
- Opportunities to publish research and to present findings at nationwide conferences
- Close relationships with faculty
- Invaluable advisement on the graduate school application process and GRE preparation
- Exposure to a variety of ways to finance graduate education (federal aid, fellowships, scholarships, Assistantships)
- \$2700 stipend plus \$600 food allowance during the summer research component

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Application Checklist 2021-2022

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Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_ Junior

### Checklist:

- Completed and Signed Application
- Requested Two Letters of Faculty Recommendations (list names below)

Recommender 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Signature Release Form
- College/University Transcripts (Unofficial)
- Copy of Most Recent FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Copy of Permanent Resident Card (if applicable)

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant is (check all that apply):** \_\_\_\_\_

- First-Generation
- Income Eligible
- Underrepresented

**Admission Decision:**

- Accepted
- Waitlisted
- Denied (reason)  
\_\_\_\_\_

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Application

## 2021-2022

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### Applicant Information

<b>Last Name</b>		<b>First Name</b>		<b>Middle Initial</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Preferred Name</b>		<b>Pronouns (e.g., she, her, hers)</b>	
		<b>Current Address</b>		<b>Permanent Address</b>
<b>Street/Apt. #</b>				
<b>City</b>				
<b>State</b>				
<b>Zip Code</b>				
<b>Mobile Phone</b>		<b>Home Phone</b>		<b>E-Mail Address</b>
<b>Citizenship* (select one)</b>		<b>Ethnicity (select one)</b>		<b>Race (select all that apply)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent U.S. Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) _____  <b>If you are not a U.S. citizen, please attach a photocopy of your permanent resident card.</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) _____

### Prior TRIO Participation

**Please indicate if you have participated in any of the following TRIO programs:**

- Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)  
  Student Support Services (SSS)  
  Talent Search  
 Upward Bound  
  Upward Bound Math-Science  
  Veterans Upward Bound

**Host Institution:**

### Educational Information

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<b>Major(s)</b>	<b>Minor(s)</b>	
<b>Class Standing</b>	<b>Cumulative GPA</b>	<b>GPA in Major</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior		
<b>Total Credit Hours Earned</b>	<b>Credits Registered</b>	<b>Expected Graduate Date</b>
<b>Have you previously attended a 2-year Community/Junior/Technical College?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If Yes: When? _____ Name of Institution: _____		
<b>When was the first year you enrolled in a 4-year Institution?</b>		

### Family Information

#### Highest Educational Level Completed by Parents or Legal Guardian

#### Mother/Legal Guardian

Less than High School  High School  Some College  Bachelor's Degree  Graduate Degree

#### Father/Legal Guardian

Less than High School  High School  Some College  Bachelor's Degree  Graduate Degree

### Income Verification

**What is the number of individuals living in your family household?** \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Dependent	<b>If you are a dependent applicant (received support from parent(s) or guardian):</b> Did your parents/guardian file a federal income tax return for last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what was <u>their</u> TAXABLE income? _____ <b>Parent Signature (Required)</b> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<b>If you are an independent applicant (at least 24 years of age; or a veteran, orphan (both parents deceased), ward of the court, married, or have dependents other than a spouse):</b> Did you file a federal income tax return for last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what was <u>your</u> TAXABLE income? _____ <b>Student Signature (Required)</b> _____
Verification Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Parent's most recent Federal Income Tax Return, or <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Parent's most recent Federal Income Tax Return, or <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of your most recent FAFSA SAR

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Application Instructions 2021 -2022

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## **McNair Application Instructions**

*Please complete the following and attach to your application. Your name should appear in the top right corner of each page of your personal essay and short answers. Please do not submit this "instructions" page with your application.*

### **1. Personal Essay:**

Write a concise essay (not more than three pages, double spaced, 12-point font) describing a challenge or obstacle you have faced in life. Explain how you overcame this challenge. Be specific about how this challenge has helped to shape the person that you are today; what you have learned about overcoming challenges; and how it has helped you set your goals for the future.

### **2. Short Answer Questions**

Please answer the following questions (one or two paragraphs each)

1. Have you conducted any previous research projects, either independently or with a professor? If so, please explain the nature of the project.
2. Have you considered a career as a college professor? Why or Why not?
3. What are your long-term career goals? Why are you interested in this career?
4. Have you considered studying for a PhD? Why or Why not?

### **3. Preliminary Research Proposal (Abstract)**

Please submit a brief statement (two to three paragraphs) explaining your research idea. Please include:

1. A Title Page (your name and the title of your project)
2. What question (s) do you wish to answer about this subject?
3. Why are you interested in this topic? Why do you think this is important?
4. Please indicate whether you have discussed this with a faculty member in your department or at your institution.

Please be reminded that should you be accepted as a McNair Scholar you will have the opportunity to change or expound on this topic.

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program References

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## Letter of Recommendation #1

**Applicant:** *With the exception of the contents of this box*, this form must be completed by your recommender and returned to you in a sealed envelope along with a letter of recommendation for inclusion in your application packet.

**I HEREBY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO EXAMINE THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I REALIZE THAT THE UofSC MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL UTILIZE THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MY ADMISSION TO THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM. I REALIZE MY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THIS RECOMMENDATION IS NOT A CONDITION OF MY ADMISSION.**

Please *initial* your choice: \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to the above waiver    \_\_\_\_\_ I do not agree to the above waiver

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### To the Recommender:

Thank you for assisting the applicant with her/his McNair Scholars Program application. To ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and return it to the requester in your sealed envelope. The requester will include it as part of her/his application packet. If it is more convenient, you may submit your letter via email to: [Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu)

In addition to completing the chart below, we ask that you include a separate letter that addresses the following:

- your association with the applicant
- the applicant's potential for successful entry into graduate school and completion of a doctoral degree
- the applicant's skills and strengths, as well as areas in need of improvement
- ways in which the McNair Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

Please check the appropriate box in each category and attach your letter to this completed form:

Attributes/Skills	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Critical thinking skills					
Oral presentation skills					
Writing skills					
Motivation/initiative					
Propensity to be cooperative					
Emotional maturity					
Dependability					
Creativity					
Ability to work independently					
Time management skills					

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Application References

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## Letter of Recommendation #2

**Applicant:** *With the exception of the contents of this box, this form must be completed by your recommender and returned to you in a sealed envelope along with a letter of recommendation for inclusion in your application packet.*

**I HEREBY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO EXAMINE THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I REALIZE THAT THE UofSC MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL UTILIZE THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MY ADMISSION TO THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM. I REALIZE MY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THIS RECOMMENDATION IS NOT A CONDITION OF MY ADMISSION.**

Please *initial* your choice: \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to the above waiver    \_\_\_\_\_ I do not agree to the above waiver

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### To the Recommender:

Thank you for assisting the applicant with her/his McNair Scholars Program application. To ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and return it to the requester in your sealed envelope. The requester will include it as part of her/his application packet. If it is more convenient, you may submit your letter via email to: [Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu)

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- ways in which the McNair Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

Please check the appropriate box in each category and attach your letter to this completed form:

Attributes/Skills	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Critical thinking skills					
Oral presentation skills					
Writing skills					
Motivation/initiative					
Propensity to be cooperative					
Emotional maturity					
Dependability					
Creativity					
Ability to work independently					
Time management skills					

# UofSC McNair Scholars Program Signature Release Form

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This release form enables the UofSC McNair Scholars Program to obtain the following information for the purpose of determining eligibility, developing education plans, and collecting program statistics:

- College/university admission & enrollment
- Grade reports/transcripts
- Financial aid reports and information regarding scholarships, fellowships, and other awards
- U.S. residency status
- Current contact information (address, phone number, email address)
- Past TRIO participation

Aspects of this information and the nature of your participation in the McNair Scholars Program may be shared with the U.S. Department of Education, the McNair Program Advisory Committee and UofSC personnel in accordance with federal regulations and policy.

My signature below indicates that I hereby authorize the release of my academic, personal, and medical (when necessary) records to the McNair Scholars Program at the University of South Carolina for the purpose of serving my needs and meeting its federal regulations. I also hereby attest that, to the best of my knowledge, the information given in this application is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature	Date



## UofSC McNair Scholars Program Signature Page

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**Please read and sign the following statement:**

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded project designed to increase the number of underrepresented individuals pursuing doctoral study. The information on this form is required and is strictly confidential; it will only be used to determine eligibility.

**I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further authorize the University of South Carolina Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program to access and review my academic transcripts for the purposes of verifying my eligibility and aiding in my potential selection for program.**

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed application packet to:**

Dr. Sharon Lee White  
McNair Scholars Program  
1400 Wheat Street, Room 202  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Or  
Scan and email to  
Leesg@mailbox.sc.edu

**How did you hear about the McNair Scholars Program? (Select all that apply)**

- McNair Scholar
- McNair Staff
- McNair Mentor
- Other Faculty/Staff
- Friend
- Poster
- Recruiting Event
- Social Media
- Other

**If Other, Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

