

# University of Wisconsin Oshkosh



## McNair Scholars Program Student Application Packet

### **Ronald E. McNair**

Ronald E. McNair was born in South Carolina in 1950. He received a PhD in physics from MIT in 1976. In 1979, McNair entered training to be an astronaut. Qualified as a mission specialist on NASA Space Shuttle flights, McNair was assigned to the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. Sadly, he lost his life when the shuttle exploded in January 1986. His long list of impressive accomplishments included graduating Magna cum Laude from North Carolina A&T in 1971, receiving Ford Foundation and NATO Fellowships, and being nominated to *Who's Who Among Black Americans* (1980). McNair was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



The UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program is 100% funded through a TRIO grant from the United States Department of Education PR/Award Number P217A070188. For 2007/2008, the UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program received \$220,000 in federal funds.

Statements asked on this application form correspond to the requirements for funding from the Department of Education. Statement of Confidentiality: all information contained in this application is for the purpose of determining the applicant eligibility for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program. Information received will be kept confidential. If for any reason, you are not accepted into the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program, your information will be returned to you upon written request. By signing the agreement forms the applicant signifies that the information submitted is true, complete, and verifiable.

Dear Prospective McNair Scholar,

The McNair Scholars Program may be an once-in-a-lifetime valuable opportunity to advance your academic career. This prestigious and competitive program prepares selected University of Wisconsin Oshkosh undergraduates for graduate study at the doctoral level with the aim to increase numbers of student groups underrepresented in doctoral programs. Twenty-five students will be selected and assigned to faculty mentors who will assist the students in designing, implementing, and completing a significant research project. In addition, seminars will be offered to the students throughout their tenure with the Ronald McNair program; these include research methodology, writing and oral presentation skills, academic and career guidance, GRE application preparation, and visits to graduate schools.

To be eligible for the McNair Scholars Program, you must be either:

- A first generation college student (neither parent has received a college degree), and qualify as a low-income student according to federal guidelines

OR

- Qualify as a member of an underrepresented minority group (i.e. African-American, Latino-American, Native-American, etc.)

Students selected to be McNair Scholars gain prestige and recognition on campus and in the graduate community.

Benefits to McNair Scholars are:

- Participate in a paid summer research internship at UW Oshkosh (\$2500 including room and board).
- Attend professional conferences and present your research at regional and/or national conferences
- Guided research with a faculty mentor
- Receive academic counseling and tutoring
- Career counseling and guidance
- Receive assistance with GRE preparation and the graduate school application process
- Visit graduate schools
- Meet and network with students who have similar life and academic aspirations

If this sounds like something you are interested in pursuing, and you have completed at least 45 cumulative credit hours towards your degree at the time of application; have 60 credits in progress; and have a 2.75 grade point average or higher, then I invite you to fill out the enclosed application. Please be sure to complete the application in its entirety and include copies of your grade transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and your most recent tax forms or your parent's most recent tax forms. Completed applications should be submitted to:

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program

Susannah Sandrin  
Polk Library 323  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901  
[sandrins@uwosh.edu](mailto:sandrins@uwosh.edu)

or

Mary Seaman  
Polk Library 325  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901  
[seamanm@uwosh.edu](mailto:seamanm@uwosh.edu)

## Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program you must meet several requirements. Please check the appropriate boxes and fill-in all that applies:

1a. I qualify for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars program as a first-generation student (neither parent/guardian has received a Bachelors degree) and low-income, based on federal guidelines (see federal monetary guidelines for low-income in the table at the end of this packet). \_\_\_\_\_

OR

1b. I am a member of at least one of the following eligible minority groups.

- Black/African-American \_\_\_\_\_
- Latino/Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_
- Native American \_\_\_\_\_
- Native Alaskan \_\_\_\_\_
- Native Hawaiian \_\_\_\_\_
- Pacific Islander (Guam and US Territories) \_\_\_\_\_
- *According to federal guidelines, Southeast Asian Americans are eligible only under Category 1a.*

2. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ United States Citizen, \_\_\_\_\_ permanent resident of the United States (ID# \_\_\_\_\_)

3. I will have achieved at least 45 cumulative credit hours toward my degree at the time of application and have a total of 60 credits in progress. \_\_\_\_\_

4. I have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher. \_\_\_\_\_

If you have met requirements 1a OR 1b, AND 2, 3, and 4, then please complete the remainder of the application. Your signature is an affirmation of eligibility.

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Signature of Applicant

Date

## Application Checklist

To be considered for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program, you must include the following items with your application. Use this checklist to complete your application.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Meet Eligibility Requirements  
Complete the Eligibility Requirements section.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Information  
Complete the Personal Information section. All information should be current.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Information  
Complete the Financial Information section.  
Include current information from the Financial Aid Office or from your parent's tax return that declares you as a dependent (1040, 1040A, 1040EA, documentation of tax information may be requested at a later date).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ First Generation Low-income Verification Form
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Information  
Complete the Academic Information section and include one copy of your official transcript from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and, if applicable, previous colleges and universities.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Statement  
Type a statement describing, in no more than two (2) pages, your ultimate educational and career goals. Explain what you have done to prepare yourself to meet these goals. Discuss the academic area in which you would like to conduct research. Discuss what you would hope to accomplish through participation in the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Two Letters of Recommendation  
Submit two sealed and completed letter-of-recommendations. These should be from individuals who can best assess your ability for academic research and your potential to attend graduate school. At least one of the letters should come from a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh faculty or academic staff member.

Completed applications are due on or before February 29, 2008.

Completed applications will be reviewed as they are received and there is no guarantee of placement for late applications. A University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program Trustee Advisory Board comprised of members of the university community will screen and place all applicants.

## Personal Information Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apartment Number  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apartment Number  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

UW Oshkosh Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_

### Ethnic Background:

African American \_\_\_\_\_ Latino/Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Native American \_\_\_\_\_  
Native Alaskan \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_ Native Hawaiian \_\_\_\_\_  
Asian, Caucasian, Other \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: U. S. Citizen \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Resident \_\_\_\_\_ (ID# \_\_\_\_\_)

Declared Major \_\_\_\_\_ Credits Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Research Experience: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, then please describe briefly \_\_\_\_\_

## First Generation-Low Income Verification Form

## Eligibility Worksheet

To be completed by all applicants.

Did your father graduate from a four-year college?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

Did your mother graduate from a four-year college?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

With whom were you living with before reaching your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday?

Mother only \_\_\_\_\_    Father only \_\_\_\_\_    both parents \_\_\_\_\_    Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

*The definition of "first-generation college student" is that my parents or guardians with whom I resided prior to my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday did not receive a baccalaureate degree (i.e. Bachelor of Arts - BA, Bachelor of Science - BS) from a college or university, OR that if my parents attended college outside the U.S. and graduated, the degree would not be considered to be the equivalent of a BA or BS.*

My signature verifies that I qualify as a first generation college student.

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Signature of Applicant

Date

## To be completed by all applicants:

### Financial Aid Status:

- I have applied for financial aid.      Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_
- I plan to apply for financial aid, but have not submitted my forms yet.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_
- I choose not to apply for financial aid.      Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

### Low-Income Status Worksheet:

- My parents or guardians financially support me.    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_
- I was claimed as a dependent on the income-tax forms of my parent(s) or guardian(s).    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, what **taxable income (not adjusted gross income)** was reported in 2007?
- OR
- I am self-supporting?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, what **taxable income (not adjusted gross income)** was reported in 2007?
- Number of dependents, including parents reported on the tax form submitted.

Using the chart below, check the space next to the income range which best approximates the taxable income you reported in the 2007 tax year.

<b>Number of Dependents</b>	<b>Taxable Income</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>15,315 or less</b>	_____
<b>2</b>	<b>15,315 to 20,535</b>	_____
<b>3</b>	<b>20,535 to 25,755</b>	_____
<b>4</b>	<b>25,755 to 30,975</b>	_____
<b>5</b>	<b>30,975 to 36,195</b>	_____
<b>6</b>	<b>36,195 to 41,415</b>	_____
<b>7</b>	<b>41,415 to 46,635</b>	_____
<b>8</b>	<b>46,635 to 51,855</b>	_____

For the purposes of documentation you must attach to your application a copy of the appropriate federal income form (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ).

### **Educational Information**

Date of university enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

**Undergraduate Information:**

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_

How many credits have been earned? \_\_\_\_\_

How many credits are currently being taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduate School Information**

Intended Graduate School Major \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you thought about what schools you might be interested in attending for doctoral study?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list schools here \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously participated in any of the following TRIO Programs?

EOC	Yes _____	No _____	
Veterans Upward Bound	Yes _____	No _____	No _____
Upward Bound Math/Science	Yes _____	No _____	No _____
Talent Search	Yes _____	No _____	
Student Support Services	Yes _____	No _____	No _____

Are you a disabled student? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current employment status? 1-19 hrs/wk \_\_\_\_\_ 20-35 hrs/wk \_\_\_\_\_  
36+ hrs/wk \_\_\_\_\_ Not employed \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be available for an eight (8) week, research internship in the summer funded by the McNair Scholars Program? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How did you become aware of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program?

**Personal Statement:**

Please attach a separate typed sheet(s) to answer the following questions.

1. What prospective research topic(s) or research area do you wish to explore as a McNair Scholar at UW Oshkosh?
2. Please describe your participation in pre-college and college-academic enhancement activities or programs – for example – Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Honors Program and/or honors societies, faculty/student collaborative research, recitals or other performance experiences, competitions or shows, internships, etc. Articulate when and where you took part in these programs, and describe what your participation entailed.
3. Please describe academic honors, distinctions, or service recognitions you have received.
4. Please describe any research or academic internships in which you have been involved via coursework, employment or other experiences.
5. Please describe how you envision yourself benefiting from the McNair Scholars Program and the acquisition of a doctorate.

## **Letters of Recommendation**

- Please obtain 2 letters of recommendation either from a faculty member or an academic staff member, who will accurately describe your academic performance, improvements and desire to pursue a graduate degree.
- Please provide a description of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program for their review so that they can adequately assess your potential to succeed.
- It is preferred that letters are submitted confidentially. To do so, seal the letter and have the faculty or academic staff member hand write his or her signature across the seal of the envelope.
- Be sure to comply with the Application Checklist before submitting all documents. Failure to follow instructions will delay the review of your application.

Submit your complete application to:

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program  
Office of Grants and Faculty Development  
Faculty Development Center  
738 High Avenue  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-8601  
Phone 920-424-3215

## **University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program Information Release Form**

My signature below will allow the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program to secure copies of information regarding financial aid, grade and progress reports, advising notifications, awards, and other information pertinent to the complete evaluation of my eligibility for this program. This information is subject to confidentiality guidelines set forth in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 known as the Buckley Amendment. Portions of my application and aspects of my participation in this program may be shared with other university personnel in accordance with federal regulations and university policy.

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Signature of Applicant

Date