



Ronald E. McNair
Postbaccalaureate
Achievement Program

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION FORM

Applicant - With the exception of the contents of this box, this form should 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 PENN STATE 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:	
Email:	

To the Recommender:

Thank you for assisting the applicant with his/her McNair Scholars Program application. In order to ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you **complete this form in confidence and return it to the: applicant in sealed envelope, email, or mail to program** (see reverse side for information). The requester will include it as part of her/his application packet. If it is more convenient, you may submit your letter directly to our office. **In addition to completing the chart below, we ask that you include a separate letter that addresses the below mentioned:**

- Your association with the applicant
- Applicant's potential for successful entry into graduate school and completion of a doctoral degree
- 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:

Applicant's promise as a graduate student in comparison with others of similar experience and training	Below Average Lowest 40%	Average Middle 20%	Above Average Next 15%	Good Next Highest 15%	Out-standing Highest 15%	Unable to Judge
Research aptitude						
Intellectual potential						
Ability to work with others						
Creativity and imagination						
Emotional maturity						
Self-Confidence						
Oral communication skills						
Written communication skills						
Critical thinking skills						
Ability to work independently						
Time management skills						
Industry/Productivity						
Academic aptitude and potential for graduate work						
Present academic performance in area of concentration						
Motivation for the pursuit of advanced graduate study						

See reverse side for program history and information.

Recommender Print Name

Recommender Signature

Date

A Brief History of the TRIO- Ronald E. McNair Program

Part of the federally funded TRIO programs, the McNair Program is designed to encourage low- income, first-generation college students and students from groups currently underrepresented in graduate education to pursue a doctoral degree in their chosen field. The McNair Program is named in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, one of seven crew members aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. Despite social and economic barriers, Dr. McNair earned many outstanding achievements such as completing a Ph.D. in Physics from M.I.T. at the age of 26 and was the second African-American to fly in space. In addition, Dr. McNair received many distinguished awards, including the National Ford Foundation Fellowship and the Presidential Scholarship.

The Rutgers University McNair Scholars Program

Established in 1991 at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program** is a federally funded program in memory of physicist and Challenger Astronaut, Dr. Ronald E. McNair. The program is designed to increase the number of first-generation, low-income and/or underrepresented students in doctoral programs, and ultimately, to diversify the faculty in colleges and universities across the country. It is one of several TRIO programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education supporting the academic achievement of students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

The McNair Program provides undergraduate students with opportunities to participate in academic year and summer research activities. McNair Scholars attend courses, seminars and workshops on a wide range of topics related to graduate school preparation, and personal, professional, and sociocultural development. Students will also complete a research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor; and have the opportunity to present their research at local, regional and national conferences.

If you would like to receive more information regarding our program or if you are a faculty member at Rutgers University and you are interested in mentoring a student, please contact our office.

McNair Scholars Program

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