

Want to learn how to navigate the graduate school application process and fund your PhD?

Apply for the
UWM Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Spring/Summer 2023



DO YOU QUALIFY?

Apply if you are...

- **At Jr/Sr standing by Summer '23 with a 3.0 GPA**
- **A low-income, first-generation college student, and/or**
- **Groups underrepresented in graduate education** (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx/a/o, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander)
- **Interested in pursuing a PhD**

All fields of study are welcomed!

THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM PROVIDES:

A \$2,800 stipend funding a summer research internship

Mentoring from PhD Scholars (Faculty/Staff)

Support with Graduate School Applications

Access to McNair Scholar/Alumni Community

Travel to conferences and graduate school visits

Networking Opportunities

Deadline: November 30, 2022

Scan here to apply!



For more information, please contact:
Dr. Sonya Martin, Interim Program Manager
mcnair@uwm.edu

UWM McNair Scholars Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Spring – Summer 2023

What is the name of this program?

The formal name of this program is the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This is the name tied to our federal grant funding, administered through the U.S. Department of Education. Since the formal name is rather long, like many institutional programs, we use a shortened version of McNair Scholars Program, in our day-to-day functions and to acknowledge this program is for our participants, who are called McNair Scholars.

Who is eligible for the McNair Scholars Program?

Eligibility is noted as the following:

- McNair Scholars must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- McNair Scholars must be working towards their first bachelor's degree.
- McNair Scholars **must have completed their sophomore year (56-58 credits)**
- McNair Scholars must be:
 - A first-generation college student (*neither parent has received a four-year bachelor's degree*) **and** be considered low-income
AND / OR
 - Groups underrepresented in graduate education (*Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx/a/o, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander*)

What are hours for summer?

The program will run over Summer 2023 for 10 weeks. Program orientation is set for Wednesday, May 31st and Thursday, June 1, 2023. The Summer Research Internship begins on Monday, June 5th and will conclude Friday, August 11, 2023. Programming occurs between 9am-5pm each day. There may be travel over a weekend and sociocultural programming during select evenings (2-3 times over summer).

Can I travel over Summer?

Travel over summer is not permitted during the 10 weeks. This is a full-time program that requires active participation and presence throughout the full calendar of events and seminars.

How is the stipend paid over the summer?

Participants in the McNair Scholars Program Summer Research Internship are eligible to earn \$2,800 for their active and full participation. Stipends are tied to participation, attendance, and seminar assignments. Stipends are divided into five payments that must be picked up in person and signed for by the McNair Scholar. Payments cannot be mailed or direct deposited.

Are DACA students eligible?

Unfortunately, DACA and undocumented students are not eligible to apply for this program. As a program directed by a federally funded grant, participants must be U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents.

If I graduate in summer, can I apply?

No. Eligible UWM undergraduate students interested in starting in McNair in Spring/Summer 2023 must apply during Fall 2022 (**priority deadline is Wednesday, November 30, 2022**). A UWM undergraduate seeking to join the McNair Scholars Program for the Spring/Summer 2023 start should have a graduation date in December 2023 or May 2024.

Does participation in McNair end after summer?

Participation in McNair continues into the academic year and to graduation. During the academic year the program hosts professional development seminars, advising meetings, and sociocultural activities, as well as provides support for the graduate program application process. This is about the same time commitment as a 2-3 credit course (but no grading here!).

Can graduate students or students from other universities apply?

No, only undergraduate students attending UWM are eligible to apply to the McNair Scholars Program.

Can I transfer to another university while in McNair?

A student transferring from UWM would not be eligible for our McNair Scholars Program, as participation in the McNair Scholars Program is not transferrable between universities. A UWM undergraduate admitted to the McNair Scholars Program for the Spring/Summer 2023 start would need to be enrolled during the 2023-2024 academic year at UWM as well as complete their undergraduate degree from UWM.

Is there an allowance for traveling?

Program-funded travel is built into the summer structure of the program and may occur during the following Fall term. There are additional program-funded opportunities for graduate school, professional development, and research-related travel, on a case-by-case basis.

Can I still apply without a 3.0 GPA?

Yes, applicants may apply to McNair with a GPA lower than 3.0.

If one parent has an advanced degree, can I apply?

If a parent/guardian has a bachelor's degree, Master's level degree, or Doctoral level degree, a student can still be eligible for the program if they identify as a racial/ethnic minority as defined by the US Department of Education in our application. Please review the section on eligibility for more information.

Can I take classes or work while completing the Summer Research Internship?

No, the summer research internship is a full-time, 40 hours per week program, that lasts for 10 weeks. Taking classes is generally not permitted and working on top of the program is strongly discouraged.

Ok so who is Ronald E. McNair and why is the program named after him?

Our program is named after Dr. Ronald E. McNair, who carried out a mission that reflects our program objectives. Dr. McNair was a NASA astronaut and physicist, who was second African American Astronaut to go to space. He received his PhD from MIT and was an active advocate for access to higher education and STEM fields for racial/ethnic minority students in education. He passed away in 1986 as a member of the Challenger crew on January 28, 1986, when their shuttle exploded in the air 73 seconds after takeoff. Shortly after this tragedy, to honor Dr. McNair's efforts, Congress passed a bill that funded the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair Scholars Program) in 1989. In 1990, fourteen universities began to host these programs. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was one of the fourteen. As of 2021, there are 187 universities with McNair Scholars Programs. Dr. McNair posthumously received the Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 2004 and many schools, parks, and libraries have been named in his honor.