

Applying to SIU McNair Scholars Program

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is a comprehensive program structured to prepare undergraduates for successful careers as graduate students, professors, and professional researchers. The program is an educational opportunity program funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 collectively known as TRIO Programs. The McNair Scholars Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and provides enriching educational experiences for low-income, first-generation college students and members of groups underserved in higher education. At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, the McNair Scholars Program accommodates **twenty-nine (29)** students each year. McNair Scholars are motivated students who have both the desire and the potential to earn a doctorate degree. By participating in the program, scholars refine and increase their academic skills as they learn tools that will help them be successful in graduate schools.

BENEFITS:

McNair Scholars Program provides:

- Individualized academic and personal support from McNair staff.
- \$2800 research award to conduct summer research
- Participation in the McNair Summer Research Symposium.
- GRE Review and preparation
- Mentoring from faculty, graduate students and peers.
- Travel awards to participate in research conferences and visit graduate schools.
- Assistance in locating and applying to graduate schools.
- Workshops on the graduate school funding and application process.

EXPECTATIONS:

McNair Scholars are required

- Attend scheduled events and workshops and maintain regular contact with McNair staff and faculty mentor.
 - Conduct research full-time and participate in all required activities during the eight-week Summer Research Institute, including weekly meetings, GRE sessions, final paper and presentation.
 - Present a poster at the SIU Undergraduate Research Forum.
 - Complete bachelor's degree and apply to at least **three** graduate degree programs before graduating.
- Provide the McNair staff alumni updates on
- your academic and professional accomplishments.

Applications are accepted each Fall and Spring semester and the deadlines are: **Oct. 15** and **Mar. 9**. Please submit the following application materials to the McNair Scholars Office (347 Woody Hall 3rd level) by the end of business (4:30pm):

McNair Program Application Checklist

- Completed Application
- (2) Essays: Personal Statement & Research Statement
- Resume: including any work, leadership, and/or research experiences, RSOs, honors & awards
- Most recent copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Most recent copy of IRS Tax Return
- 3 Letters of Recommendation, at least two from faculty members with whom you had courses (preferred).
- SIU Unofficial Transcript

After the selection committee reviews the application packets, qualifying applicants will be invited for an interview within two weeks of application submission deadline. Final decisions will be made within one week following the last interview. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Good Luck!

Please Type

APPLICATION

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First Full Middle Name

SIU ID#: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Gender: Male Female Other

Current Housing (check one): Off-campus At home with parent/guardian On campus Student

Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

SIU Email Address: _____

(Note: We will contact you via SIU email)

Personal Email Address: _____

Ethnicity: (please check **ALL THAT APPLY**)

Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native Asian

Hispanic or Latino Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander White

2. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Are you a transfer student? No Yes; if Yes, name of institution: _____

Academic Load: Full-time Part-time

SIU Major (1): _____ SIU Major (2): _____

SIU Minor (1): _____ SIU Minor (2): _____

SIU Current GPA: _____/4.0 SIU Cumulative GPA: _____/4.0

Total Semester Hours Earned: _____

Academic Standing (select one): Freshmen Sophomore Junior Senior

Do you plan to study abroad? NO YES; If "Yes", when?: _____

Anticipated Graduation (MM/YYYY): _____

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Citizenship:

U.S. Citizen

Permanent Resident; what is your Permanent Resident Alien Number? A _____

First-generation Status:

What is your father's highest educational degree?

Less than K-12 High School Diploma Associate's Degree Bachelor's Master's Doctorate

What is Your Mother's highest educational degree?

Less than K-12 High School Diploma Associate's Degree Bachelor's Master's Doctorate

Which parent did you regularly reside with and receive support from prior to the age of 18 (**Check one only**)?

Mother (natural or adoptive)

Father (natural or adoptive)

Both Mother and Father

Neither Mother nor Father

Family Income: *If you are an *INDEPENDENT* student, only include your taxable income and your dependents, if applicable.

A. What was your Family's Household Taxable Income for the **previous** year? \$ _____
(Line 6 on 1040EZ / Line 27 on 1040A / Line 43 on 1040)

B. What is the total number of persons (including you) in your family? _____

Academic Goals:

1) Are you interested in pursuing doctoral education? No Yes

2) What type of academic program do you plan to pursue in graduate school?

Biological and Biomedical Sciences Business and Finance Education

Physical and Mathematical Sciences Health Sciences Humanities

Social and Behavioral Sciences Social Work Other: _____

Undergraduate Research Interests:

Please list two research topics/projects that interest you.

1) _____

2) _____

Potential Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentors:

Please identify two potential faculty mentors conducting research in an area in your major.

1) _____
First Name Last Name Department Email Address

2) _____
First Name Last Name Department Email Address

4. OTHER INFORMATION

Dependency Verification:

To determine whether you are a DEPENDENT or INDEPENDENT student, please answer the following:

- 1) Are you 24 years or older? YES NO
 - 2) Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? YES NO
 - 3) Are you married? YES NO
 - 4) Do you have children or other dependents (other than a spouse) who receive more than half of their support from you? YES NO
 - 5) At any time since reaching 13 years of age, were you an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court? YES NO
 - 6) Prior to reaching 18 years of age, were you an emancipated minor or did you have a court-appointed legal guardian? YES NO
 - 7) Are you serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? YES No
 - 8) Are you less than 18 years of age and have no parent or guardian? YES NO Are you
 - 9) homeless (i.e., you lack a fixed, regular, & adequate nighttime residence) or are at risk of becoming homeless? YES NO
If homeless, list length of time: _____
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TRiO Programs:

Have you participated in any TRiO programs or other U.S. Department of Education programs?

If **Yes**, please give name of university/program:

Upward Bound:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
Student Support Services:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
McNair Scholars Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
Upward Bound Math and Science:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
Educational Talent Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
Educational Opportunity Centers:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____
GEAR UP:	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:	_____

University Programs:

Are you a current or past participant in any of these programs?

<input type="checkbox"/> Research Rookies	<input type="checkbox"/> REACH	<input type="checkbox"/> ILSAMP
<input type="checkbox"/> First Scholars	<input type="checkbox"/> University Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> SI Bridges

How did you find out about the McNair Scholars Program?

Information Table Information Session Website Email Flyer
 Current SIU Student Former SIU Student SIU Faculty SIU Staff
 Other: _____

Employment Information:

Do you currently have or plan to obtain employment this academic year? ____ Yes ____ No

If "Yes", will you be working: ____ Full-time ____ Part-time Hours per week: ____

Is your job: ____ On-Campus ____ Off-Campus

Where: _____

5. TWO ESSAYS

A. Personal/Professional Statement (2 pages):

Please include a **two page statement, one inch margins, double space, and 12 point font**. Use this essay as an opportunity for the selection committee to learn more about you and your background. **DO NOT** use lists or bullets in your personal/professional statement.

Your statement should address the following areas:

- Your **personal and family background** and what motivated you to pursue a **college education**.
- **Your personal attributes and professional skills that will enable you to achieve your goals**, including any weaknesses or obstacles that may be a challenge to your success.
- **Your ultimate educational and career goals**, including why you are interested in attending graduate school.
- What you hope to **accomplish** by participating in the **SIUC McNair Scholars Program**.

B. Statement of Research Experiences and Interests (up to 1 page):

Type on a separate sheet of paper a statement describing your **research interests**. Discuss the **academic area** in which you would like to conduct research if selected as McNair Scholar. **Provide an example** of a specific topic or questions you want to explore. **Do not include an abstract or proposal**.

6. RESUME

Please provide a one-page resume that lists your employment, academic honors, distinctions, scholarships, memberships, leadership positions, volunteer hours, research activities and other academic or enrichment experiences that demonstrate your commitment to academic excellence and scholarship.

7. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Three letters of recommendation are required; at least two letters should be solicited from faculty members who have knowledge of your academic performance, research experiences, and/or professional goals. See separate Recommendation Form. Your recommendations can be mailed directly to the McNair Office or placed in a signed envelope and included in your application packet. Once received, these confidential references will become the property of the McNair Program. Provide the contact information for each of your references.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Institution: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Institution: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Institution: _____ Email: _____

8. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM RELEASE

This release form enables the McNair Scholars Program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale to obtain copies of all academic and financial aid records, including transcripts, grade reports, financial aid eligibility, and other information pertaining to my eligibility and participation in the McNair Program. This information may be shared with other university personnel to determine your eligibility and to monitor your academic progress in accordance with federal regulations and university policy.

I understand that a copy of my application form will be kept on file at the McNair Scholars Program office and that the resulting information received will be used to complete the annual performance report as required by the U.S. Department of Education. The information on this form is required and is strictly confidential. Once accepted into the program, I understand that the U.S. Department of Education requires the McNair Program staff to track my post-baccalaureate enrollment and degree attainment for ten years.

I give my permission for the program staff members to request this information from this and future institutions for follow-up purposes, as well as permission to request this information through a third party, like the National Student Clearinghouse after my enrollment in the program has ended. Once accepted into the program, I grant permission for the McNair Scholars Program to use my name, photographs, or likenesses of myself in various print and online publications.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that all information submitted is complete and accurate. I understand that failure to disclose information, or falsification of information, are grounds for not being accepted to the SIUC McNair Program and, if accepted into the program, grounds for immediate termination.

Print Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Turn in completed application packet to the McNair Scholars Program, Woody Hall 347

- ___ A completed McNair application form.
- ___ Two Essays: Personal Statement and a Research Statement
- ___ Resume
- ___ 3 references including letter and recommendation form (at least two from Faculty preferred).
- ___ SIU Unofficial Transcript
- ___ Income Verification (FASFA and Income Tax Forms)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

The 20 _____ federal TRIO programs for low-income level for a family unit with _____ members is :

- Recommended for Interview
- Not Recommended for Interview
- Approved SRI Year
- Denied Admission

Reason: _____

Eligibility: LI & FG	<u>LI ONLY</u>	<u>FG ONLY</u>	Underrepresented	Not Eligible
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Special Circumstances: _____

Date of Application Entry into Database: ____/____/____ Initials of Data Entry Staff: _____