

## 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 underserved groups in higher education. At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, the McNair Scholars Program accommodates **twenty-eight (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 increase and refine 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.
- \$2800 paid to student to conduct summer research.
- \$200 available to mentor for research supplies.
- 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.
- Workshops on the graduate school funding and application process.
- Assistance in identifying and applying to graduate schools.

Applications are accepted every Fall and Spring semester. Check our website for deadlines. Please submit the following application materials to the McNair Scholars Office (347 Woody Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> level) by the end of business (4:30pm).

After the selection committee reviews the application packets, qualifying applicants will be invited for an interview within two weeks of the application submission deadline. Final decisions will be made within one week following the last interview.

*If you have any questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact our office.*

**Good Luck!**

Woody Hall C117 | Mail Code 4719 900 S. Normal Avenue | Carbondale, IL 62901  
Website: [mcnair.siu.edu](http://mcnair.siu.edu) | phone: 618.453.4582 | fax: 618.453.4596 | email: [rseymour@siu.edu](mailto:rseymour@siu.edu)

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST**

(Please check these boxes off once you enclose each item with your application)

- Completed Application (Check Only if “Completed Application”)
- Completed Personal Statement
- Completed Research Statement
- Resume- including any work, leadership, and/or research experiences, RSOs, honors & awards
- 2 Letters of Recommendation, letters from faculty members with whom you had courses (preferred).

*Recommendation forms can be mailed to the McNair Scholars Office (Woody Hall, Rm 347, Mail code 4719) or placed in a signed envelope and included in your application packet.*

*Form can be downloaded or completed online at [https://mcnair.siu.edu/\\_common/documents/recommendation-form.pdf](https://mcnair.siu.edu/_common/documents/recommendation-form.pdf)*

- Most recent copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Most recent copy of IRS Tax Return
- SIU Unofficial Transcript
- Signed Information Release Form



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: \_\_\_\_\_

Racial/Ethnic Data:

- Are you Hispanic or Latinx?  No  Yes
- How do you identify your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native  Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Asian  White
- Black or African American

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): \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Academic Goals:**

- 1) Are you interested in pursuing graduate/doctoral education?  No  Yes  Maybe
- 2) Type of degree:  Masters  Doctoral (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)  Juris Doctorate (J.D.)  
 Medical Degree (M.D.)  Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- 3) What type of academic program do you plan to pursue in graduate school? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Do you have research experience?  No  Yes

If so, please provide the name of the faculty for the project or the name of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Undergraduate Research Interests:**

Please list two research topics/projects **related to your major** that interest you.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Potential Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentors (optional):**

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 |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|

---

**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? \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### 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
- 9) Are you 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: \_\_\_\_\_

---

##### 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"/> Undergraduate Assistantship | <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?

- |   |  |                                    |  |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Table        | <input type="checkbox"/> Current SIU Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Website   | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Session |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former SIU Student Email | <input type="checkbox"/> SIU Faculty         | <input type="checkbox"/> SIU Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer               |
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 admissions 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 weakness 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. This could be a topic you learned about in class.

**Do not include an abstract or proposal.**

---

## 6. RESUME

Please provide a one-page resume in the following format. **I. Name and Basic Contact Information. II. Education. III. Employment. IV. Academic Honors, Scholarships, and Awards, V. Memberships and Outreach (including leadership positions and volunteer hours) and VI. Academic/Enrichment** Experiences research activities, study abroad, and other experiences that demonstrate your commitment to academic excellence and scholarship.

---

## 7. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**Two 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 contact information for each of your references.

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 in.

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 SIU McNair Scholar Program and if accepted into the program grounds for immediate termination.

Print Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		Eligibility: LI & FG	LI ONLY	FG ONLY	Underrepresented	Not Eligible
<b>1. Income Level:</b>	Applicant meets the income eligibility criteria? Yes ___ No ___ 20 ___ federal TRIO programs for low-income level for a family unit with ___ members is: _____.					
<b>2. First-Gen Status:</b>	Applicant is a first-generation college student? Yes ___ No ___					
<b>3. Credit Hours:</b>	Applicant has a total of ___ cumulative hours with a ___ GPA.					
<b>4. Interview:</b>	Applicant recommended for Interview? Yes ___ No ___					
<b>5. Acceptance:</b>	Applicant accepted into the program? Yes ___ No ___ Entry Date: _____					
	If No:	Eligibility	Academic Performance	Programmatic Fit/Space		
<b>NOTES:</b> _____						
_____						
_____						
_____						
Staff Signature: _____				Date: _____		

## FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM

**Applicant First and Last Names:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Waiver:** *I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by The Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974.*

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The person named above is applying to the SIU Carbondale McNair Scholars Program. We are a federally funded program that encourages graduate study and preparation. We provide participants with a mentored research experience, seminars, and workshops on topics related to the pursuit of the doctoral degree. We would appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant's personality, character, and professional and academic promise. In your statement, please discuss the applicant's strengths and weaknesses and give the basis of your opinion. We wish to select bright and motivated students who will benefit from our program. *Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and the letter of recommendation.*

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I consider the student to be \_\_\_\_\_ **Ready** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ready, if mentored** \_\_\_\_\_ **Not ready** to conduct research and explore doctoral study.

Please evaluate the student in the following categories:

	<b>VERY GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
Academic potential	_____	_____	_____	_____
Critical thinking	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____
Organization & expression of ideas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Commitment to academic goals	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to work with others	_____	_____	_____	_____
Willing to accept constructive feedback	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please **attach a letter** detailing addition information that will give us a greater understanding of the applicant and his/her potential as a graduate student and researcher.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed recommendation to: **McNair Scholars Program 900 S. Normal Ave. Mail Code 4719. Carbondale, IL 62901.**

For information, please contact Rhetta Seymour, Interim Director at 618/453-4582 or rseymour@siu.edu.



## FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM

**Applicant First and Last Names:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Waiver:** *I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by The Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974.*

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The person named above is applying to the SIU Carbondale McNair Scholars Program. We are a federally funded program that encourages graduate study and preparation. We provide participants with a mentored research experience, seminars, and workshops on topics related to the pursuit of the doctoral degree. We would appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant's personality, character, and professional and academic promise. In your statement, please discuss the applicant's strengths and weaknesses and give the basis of your opinion. We wish to select bright and motivated students who will benefit from our program. *Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and the letter of recommendation.*

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I consider the student to be  **Ready**  **Ready, if mentored**  **Not ready** to conduct research and explore doctoral study.

Please evaluate the student in the following categories:

	<b>VERY GOOD</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
Academic potential	_____	_____	_____	_____
Critical thinking	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____
Organization & expression of ideas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Commitment to academic goals	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to work with others	_____	_____	_____	_____
Willing to accept constructive feedback	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please **attach a letter** detailing addition information that will give us a greater understanding of the applicant and his/her potential as a graduate student and researcher.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed recommendation to: **McNair Scholars Program 900 S. Normal Ave. Mail Code 4719. Carbondale, IL 62901.**

For information, please contact Rhetta Seymour, Interim Director at 618/453-4582 or rseymour@siu.edu.