



SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Embrace his Legacy. Create Your Own.

Program Application

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

<http://tinyurl.com/SUMcNair>



About the McNair Program

The McNair Scholars Program at Suffolk University is a federally-funded TRIO grant designed to increase the number of underrepresented individuals pursuing doctoral study. The program was originally created by the U.S. Congress to honor the memory of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, astronaut and physicist, who passed away in the Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986.

During the academic year, the McNair Scholars are prepared for graduate work through involvement in research, faculty mentoring, academic colloquia series, and other scholarly activities. The McNair Scholars Program works closely with all program participants to achieve a high level of educational success and to complete their undergraduate requirements. All program activities prepare the program participants to be viable candidates for the McNair Summer Research Institute - a paid summer internship designed to develop and conduct an independent research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor at Suffolk University. Program participants are expected to enroll in graduate programs and eventually complete a doctoral degree.

For more information about our program, please contact us or visit: tinyurl.com/SUMcNair

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Eligibility and Selection Criteria



The McNair Scholars Program is highly competitive and serves a maximum of twenty-six students at any given time. New applicants are considered only once current scholars graduate from the university. Given the limited availability of student spots every year, meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission into the McNair cohort. Letters of recommendation, resumes, and personal statements are assessed by the program admissions committee to identify students who might benefit the most from our program offerings, who may have a strong commitment to undergraduate research, and whose goal is to complete an academic doctorate.

Students are eligible to apply if they are:

-  A citizen, national, or permanent resident of the U.S. or other eligible residency or nationality (see *first item on application for full eligibility list*)
-  Enrolled full-time at Suffolk University with at least 42 credit hours completed
-  A sophomore with at least a 2.8 GPA or a junior with at least a 3.0 GPA with at least one semester left before graduation
-  A first-generation college student who is from an income-eligible household

AND / OR

A member of a group underrepresented in higher education as defined by the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

In addition, students must be willing to participate in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, at least once before graduation; present their research projects in at least two conferences; and have a commitment to participate in all McNair activities through graduation.

The McNair Summer Research Institute is the equivalent of a summer part-time job with a time commitment of at least 20 hours per week of dedicated research and activities and carries a monetary stipend. Students may also receive travel scholarships to attend conferences and potential graduate programs, waivers for graduate school admissions application, and subsidized graduate testing fees.

Application Materials & Checklist

Given the competitiveness and limited spots in the McNair Scholars Program, meeting the eligibility requirements does not grant automatic admissions into the cohort. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The following is a list of materials required to be considered for admission into the McNair Program. Once everything is received and reviewed, an in-person interview will be conducted and a final decision will be made concerning an applicant's admission status.

Admitted scholars are involved with the program through graduation from Suffolk University.

- ☐ **Applicant Information and Eligibility Form**
- ☐ **Unofficial Transcripts**
- ☐ **Copy of the Student's FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)**
If a FAFSA was not filed, please see application for other information
- ☐ **Personal and Research Statement**
- ☐ **Resume or Curriculum Vitae**
- ☐ **Academic Writing Sample and/or Other Academic Documents**
- ☐ **Contact Information for Two Recommenders**
At least one should be a faculty member at Suffolk University;

For additional information regarding these items, please see Page 4 of the Applicant Information and Eligibility Form. For specific questions, please visit us, contact us by email at mcnair@suffolk.edu or call **617.725.4110**.

Please submit all of your application materials in person, to:

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program
Center for Academic Access and Opportunity
Suffolk University
73 Tremont Street, 7th Floor, Suite 7025
Boston, MA 02108





APPLICANT INFORMATION & ELIGIBILITY FORM

The Suffolk McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded TRIO program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Acceptance into the program is highly competitive and is contingent upon meeting eligibility criteria and space availability. Please answer all relevant questions below. All information will be kept confidential.

PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY

1. I am a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States; or in the process of becoming a permanent resident and can provide documentation from USCIS; or a resident of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. I am currently enrolled full-time at Suffolk University with at least one summer before graduating ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. I will have completed at least 42 college credit hours at the time of admission to McNair ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. I am academically classified as at least a sophomore with a 2.8 GPA or a junior with a 3.0 GPA ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. I have a strong desire to pursue a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, EngD) in my field ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "Yes" to all of the questions above, you may be eligible to participate in the program. Please complete the rest of the application and submit it with supporting documentation for consideration.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Social Security #: _____ T-Shirt Size: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Current Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone 1: _____ Type: ☐ Home ☐ Mobile

Phone 2: _____ Type: ☐ Home ☐ Mobile

Suffolk Email: _____@su.suffolk.edu Suffolk ID #: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Personal Email: _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-Binary Gender Pronouns: ☐ He/Him/His ☐ She/Her/Hers ☐ They/Them/Theirs

Racial/Ethnic Heritage (**Check all that apply**):

- ☐ Hispanic / Latina/o/x
- ☐ Native American / American Indian / Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian / Asian American
- ☐ African / African American / Black
- ☐ Middle Eastern / North African
- ☐ White – European / American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other: _____

For Internal Use Only:

L.I. ☐ Yes ☐ No

F.G. ☐ Yes ☐ No

U.R. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Staff Initials: _____ Date: _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION

What was the first semester you ever enrolled in college? Year: _____ ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer

Was Suffolk University the first higher education institution you ever enrolled in? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Community College Data:

Did you attend a community college before enrolling at Suffolk University? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what was the institution's name? _____

City / State: _____ Attendance Dates: From _____ to _____

Transfer Student Data:

Are you a transfer student to Suffolk University? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you transferred, what was the institution's name? _____

Did you complete a degree or certificate program at that school prior to transferring? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what was the name of the degree/certificate: _____

Suffolk University Data:

Current Academic Classification at Suffolk: ☐ 2nd Year ☐ 3rd Year ☐ 4th Year ☐ Other: _____

Current Major(s): _____ Minor(s): _____

At the time of application, how many credit hours have you earned overall (do not count this semester): _____

How many credit hours are you registered for this semester? _____ Overall GPA: _____

Expected Graduation (Month/Year): _____

Name of degree to be earned at Suffolk University: _____

What is your proposed field of study for graduate school? _____

EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUTER INFORMATION

Do you currently have a job? ☐ Yes, Part-Time ☐ Yes, Full-Time ☐ No

Organization: _____ Job Title: _____

How many hours per week do you work/will you be working during the academic year? _____

What days/times do you/will you normally work? _____

Are you a commuter student? ☐ No, I live on campus ☐ Yes, I commute from _____

FIRST-GENERATION STATUS

At the time of your 18th birthday, what was the highest level of completed education of your parent(s)/legal guardian(s):

Parent/Guardian 1: ☐ Less than HS ☐ HS Diploma ☐ Some College ☐ Associates ☐ Bachelors ☐ Graduate

Parent/Guardian 2: ☐ Not Applicable, I grew up in a single-parent household
☐ Less than HS ☐ HS Diploma ☐ Some College ☐ Associates ☐ Bachelors ☐ Graduate

FEDERAL INCOME STATUS

Federal regulations require all McNair Grantees to check a participants' federal income status to determine one possible eligibility component of the application. The Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education recently authorized TRIO Programs to use prior-prior income data to determine income eligibility for TRIO programs. This data is reported by a student and their parents/guardians in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In order to meet this requirement, a student may submit a copy of their FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) for the academic year during which they are submitting their McNair application. If a FAFSA was not completed, income eligibility must be determined in another way.

Please select either Option 1 or Option 2 below. If you choose Option 2, please check an additional box below it:

- ☐ 1. I completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current academic year, and submitted it to Suffolk University to request financial aid. I have obtained a copy of my current Student Aid Report (SAR) and would like this to be used as an official document from a governmental source to verify my income eligibility for the McNair Program.

My Student Aid Report (SAR) is for Academic Year: ☐ 2019 – 2020 ☐ 2020 – 2021 ☐ 2021 – 2022 ☐ 2022 – 2023

I verify that this report was obtained directly from the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.ed.gov), hosted by the United States Department of Education, and has not been altered in any way.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

- ☐ 2. I did not complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current academic year, and I will need to verify my income eligibility for the McNair Program in another way. To aid the McNair staff in providing you with appropriate options to verify your income, please select one of the following:
- ☐ I was considered **dependent** on my parent/guardian's **prior-prior** year tax return
 - ☐ I was considered **independent** for tax purposes on my **prior-prior** year tax return and did not appear on my parent(s)/guardian(s) income tax returns

For Internal Use Only: Family Size: _____ TRIO Income Guidelines for Family Size Reported: \$ _____

PREVIOUS TRIO PARTICIPATION

Please indicate if you have ever participated in any of the following TRiO programs:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talent Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Upward Bound | <input type="checkbox"/> Upward Bound Math and Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upward Bound | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Support Services |

Location of TRIO Participation: _____ Dates: _____

OTHER REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

In order to complete your application, you are required to submit the following:

- 1. Personal and Research Statement:** The statement should discuss your educational and career goals and how participation in the McNair Scholars Program will impact your ability to attain them. Describe your motivations for pursuing graduate study and the contributions you wish to make to your field/community. If applicable, please describe any research experience you have gained in the university setting, as well as, any additional information you feel may be relevant to the program. This document should NOT exceed *four (4) double-spaced pages*.
- 2. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV):** This document should include, but not be limited to, a list of academic honors, distinctions, scholarships, memberships in academic and extracurricular organizations, and participation in academic activities. Be sure to include any research experience, as well. If you do, make sure to include the name of the faculty member or research supervisor under whom you conducted this work, and your primary responsibilities. The layout of a resume vs. an academic CV will vary by discipline. *Resume's tend to be about 1-2 pages, while CVs can grow to be quite lengthy.*
- 3. Academic Writing Sample and/or Other Supporting Documentation:** Submit a writing sample in a topic of your choosing. This should be academic in nature and include external references cited in the paper – usually this will be a final course paper in research methods or major-specific courses. *There is no length requirement for the writing sample.* If you feel you have not had enough upper-division coursework for a significant writing sample, please submit other documents that can give us a sense of your research, writing, and presentation skills (e.g., slides for course presentations; series of lab reports; etc.)
- 4. Unofficial Transcript(s):** Please include an unofficial transcript to verify coursework taken and current GPA.

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION

Please include the names of two individuals who can serve as recommenders for your application. We will reach out to them directly on your behalf. At least one recommender MUST be a professor/faculty member at Suffolk University.

Recommender 1: _____ Job Title: _____

Department: _____ Email: _____@suffolk.edu

Recommender 2: _____ Job Title: _____

Organization: _____ Email: _____

CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION

With my signature below, I certify that the information I provided on and in connection with this Applicant Information and Eligibility Form is true, accurate, and complete. If necessary, I understand that the program may request more information to verify the information I have provided here.

If accepted to the McNair Scholars Program, I further authorize McNair Program Staff to release and request personal and/or academic information as it relates to my eligibility, progress, and status in the McNair Program and academic/professional activities throughout my enrollment at Suffolk University or any undergraduate institution I transfer to through the completion of my bachelor's degree AND post-graduation for 10 years following my graduation from a bachelor's degree program at Suffolk University or at another higher education institution as required by the U.S. Department of Education that governs the McNair grant, including but not limited to: financial aid information, records maintained by the university registrar (i.e., class schedules, transcripts), standardized examination scores, and/or notes and information from other university administrators that are responsible for ensuring my academic and professional success.

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Signature

Date

Please return completed application to:
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Center for Academic Access and Opportunity | Suffolk University
73 Tremont Street, 7th Floor, Suite 7025, Boston, MA 02108