

**MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FORM**

I HEREBY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO EXAMINE THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I REALIZE THAT THE UVM MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL UTILIZE THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MY ADMISSION TO THE MCNAIR 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 _____

Campus Phone _____ Email _____

To the Recommender:

Thank you for assisting the applicant with this application. In order to ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and return the information to:

McNair Scholars Program
237C Waterman Building
Campus Mail

In addition to completing the attached chart, please include a separate letter that addresses the following:

- your association with the applicant
- the applicant's potential for successful entry into graduate school and completion of a doctoral degree
- the applicant's skills and strengths, as well as areas in need of improvement
- ways in which the McNair Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

The McNair Scholars Program accepts applications year round but early submissions are preferred since interviews for summer internships begin in November and conclude once a cohort of ten scholars has been selected.

Please forward faculty recommendations as soon as possible. Thank you.

Student Name: _____ Recommender Name: _____

Please check the appropriate box in each category and attach your letter to this completed form:

Attributes/Skills	UPPER 10%	UPPER 25%	UPPER 50%	LOWER 50%	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Intellectual ability					
Oral presentation skills					
Writing skills					
Motivation/initiative					
Propensity to be cooperative					
Emotional maturity					
Dependability					
Creativity					
Open-mindedness					
Ability to commit & follow through					
Ability to perform research					
Ability to work independently					
Time management skills					
Industry/Productivity					

A Brief History of The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program



Part of the federally funded TRIO programs, the McNair Scholars 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 who in 1986 perished 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. He 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.

McNair Scholars Program at UVM

Introduced to the University of Vermont in the spring of 2004, students accepted to the McNair Scholars Program participate in a series of workshops and seminars that educate them on many aspects of graduate education and the role of faculty. The program provides participants with writing skills workshops, tutoring, career advising and other academic enrichment experiences. In addition, participants are provided with GRE and graduate school preparation workshops, as well as the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor to conduct a literature review and design a research project.

The McNair Academic Year Component is open to sophomores and juniors currently enrolled at UVM. The McNair Summer Research Component is a full-time, ten-week, summer internship which provides intense research experience in the chosen field of study.

During their senior year, participants are required to attend a national, regional, state, or local conference on a topic relevant to their research interests. Seniors are also required to apply to graduate programs, for which they will receive advocacy and application fee waivers, as well as possible fee waivers for the GRE.

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

McNair Scholars Program
University of Vermont
237C Waterman Building
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone: 802-656-9099 or 802-656-4546
<http://www.uvm.edu/~mcnair>