

**McNair Scholars Seminar - EDLP 295**  
**Fall 2009 Syllabus**

**as of 9/3/09**

**Wednesdays, 8:30 to 9:20 AM**  
**124 Marsh Life Science**

Instructor: Jim Vigoreaux  
 Office hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00 AM  
 Thursday 2:30 - 4:00 PM  
 or by appointment

322 Marsh Life Science  
 656-4627  
[jvigorea@uvm.edu](mailto:jvigorea@uvm.edu)

DATE	DISCUSSION	ASSIGNMENT	Prompt for journal writing
Sept 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar Overview and Goals</li> <li>• The McNair Scholar journal</li> <li>• <i>What is Graduate School?</i></li> </ul>	Read 'How to get into Graduate School'; 'Graduate School Guide to Success' and 'Keeping a McNair Scholar Journal'	(1) Why do I want to get a PhD? (2) What am I most worried about?
Sept 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to get into Graduate School</li> </ul>	(3) Gather Information on 3-5 graduate programs of interest	(4) What areas I need to strengthen in my graduate school application?
Sept 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding the right graduate program</li> </ul>	(5) Checklist of graduate school application	(6) How do I turn my 'weaknesses' into strengths?
Sept 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the Personal Statement and Statement of Research Interest</li> <li>• Guest: Rory Waterman</li> </ul>	(7) Draft 1 Personal Statement or Statement of Research Interest	(8) What is the most exciting and interesting research being done in my specialty?
Sept 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing your cv or resume</li> </ul>	(9) Draft 1 resume or cv	(10) What do I want future employers to really know about me? Or, What is my uniqueness?
Oct 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Gathering faculty recommendations</li> </ul>	(11) List of five potential referees and factors to consider	(12) How does my chosen career path projects my intellectual curiosities and personal experiences?

Oct 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest: Katrinell Davis</li> </ul>	(13) Draft 2 Personal Statement	(14) What leadership roles do I envision having in my professional career?
Oct 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible Conduct of Research</li> <li>• SACNAS Conference debriefing</li> </ul>	Read “Methods, manners, and the responsible conduct of research”	(15) How would I deal with professional misconduct?
Oct 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest: Elizabeth Berman</li> </ul>	(16) Draft 2 resume or cv	(17) What are the broader impacts of my research that will benefit society?
Nov 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited guest</li> </ul>	Reading ‘Preparing for your interview’	
Nov 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview Skills</li> </ul>		(18) My strategy and exit plan for graduate schools
Nov 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock interviews</li> </ul>	DUE Personal Statement Preparation for interviews	
Nov 25	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
Dec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navigating through Graduate School</li> </ul>	DUE Complete Graduate School application checklist	
Dec 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluations &amp; feedback</li> </ul>		

Notes. Numbered assignments should be written and part of your journal. Bring your journals to every class. You will be reading from them and I will collect them periodically.