Ronald E. McNair was born on October 12, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. He received his bachelor’s degree magna cum laude in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971.

Five years later he earned a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics and received many honorary degrees, fellowships and commendations. However, his achievements were not limited to academia. He was a sixth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished saxophonist. Dr. McNair and his wife, Cheryl Moore, had two children, Reginald and Joy.

In 1978 Dr. McNair was selected for the NASA space program and he was the second African American to fly in space. His life ended tragically on January 28, 1986 when the Challenger space shuttle exploded, taking the life of Dr. McNair and six other astronauts.

The McNair Scholars Program is dedicated to preserving his legacy of scholarship and accomplishments.

How to Apply

Contact:
Tammy Gewehr, Director
Selina Taylor, Associate Director
Helen Lonek, Program Assistant

McNair Scholars Program
University of New Hampshire
11 Garrison Avenue, Stoke Hall
Durham, NH 03824

Office: 603-862-0088
Fax: 603-862-1927
Email: mcnair.program@unh.edu
Website: www.unh.edu/mcnair

Visit our office for an application or download one from our website.

Follow @UNH_McNair on Social Media:

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University of New Hampshire
The McNair Scholars Program is designed to encourage and assist students from groups often underrepresented in graduate programs to pursue doctoral degrees. Each year, a select number of undergraduates are chosen to participate in both academic year and summer research fellowships.

Program Benefits

The McNair Scholars Program prepares students for acceptance into quality graduate programs.

- **Workshops and seminars** help students select a graduate school, go through the graduate school application process, prepare for the GRE, learn about graduate funding opportunities, improve technical writing skills and hone academic, research and presentation skills.

- **Faculty mentors** are on hand to help students formulate research interests, develop research skills and prepare for doctoral study.

- **Individualized counseling** helps students address undergraduate academic needs and enhance student efforts to gain admission into graduate programs.

- **A summer research fellowship** provides undergraduate experiences that lay the foundation for a successful graduate school experience. Benefits include extensive work with a faculty mentor, a stipend of $2,800, paid summer tuition and room/board, and academic course credit.

- **Travel to national symposiums and conferences** provides students with opportunities to present research to faculty and peers.

Student Expectations

As a McNair Scholar, you will:

- Participate in all workshops and seminars, maintain a full-time course load during the academic year and sustain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

- Develop a portfolio to include a curriculum vitae, personal statement, publishable research article and presentation, and evidence of research and scholarly activity.

- Take the Graduate Record Examination and apply to graduate programs (seniors).

Eligibility

To qualify for the McNair Scholars Program, students must:

- Be a UNH sophomore or junior with a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA

- Hold U.S. citizenship or permanent U.S. residency

- Be a First-generation college student (of any race/ethnicity) and come from a low-income family, and/or be a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education (Black, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Islander)

- Intend to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation. The McNair Program is not open to students pursuing professional degrees (e.g. veterinary, medical or law degrees)

Pre-McNair Program

Pre-McNair is a one-year (non-committal) program for freshmen and sophomores to explore what it is like to be a McNair Scholar. Benefits include academic counseling and mentoring, academic workshops and research seminars, and fun social and cultural events! Upon successful completion of Pre-McNair, students with a 3.0 G.P.A or higher will be officially invited into the McNair Scholars Program. For more information, go to [www.unh.edu/mcnair](http://www.unh.edu/mcnair)