



# UNH McNair Scholars Program Application, 2023-2024

**PATHWAY TO THE PH.D.**

## The Program

The University of New Hampshire's (UNH) McNair Scholars Program was established in 1991 and has been in existence for over 30 years. McNair is a federally funded TRIO program administered by the U.S. Department of Education and serves a diverse group of talented UNH sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are interested in pursuing graduate education and earning a Ph.D. UNH McNair provides enriching scholastic experiences that prepare eligible students to be successful applicants to competitive graduate programs.

## Eligibility

McNair scholars are selected on a competitive basis. To be eligible, an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be a UNH undergraduate student with 60 or more credit hours by the start of summer 2024
- Be a UNH undergraduate student not graduating prior to May 2024
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher
- Meet one of the following requirements:
  - Be a low-income AND first-generation college student according to established guidelines, **OR**
  - Be a member of a group underrepresented in graduate education (e.g., 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)

## Program Requirements

Students must demonstrate a true commitment to pursuing doctoral studies and agree to participate in all of the following: intensive faculty-guided summer research program and ongoing research during the academic year, summer research methods & writing course, summer GRE prep classes, seminars, workshops, and advisement meetings with McNair staff. Participants are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8.

Application Package		Form Enclosed	You Provide
1	Application Checklist	X	
2	Application Form	X	
3	Two (2) Letters of recommendation	X	
4	Signature Release Form	X	
5	Official University/College transcripts		X
6	Copy of most recent Student Aid Report (SAR)		X
7	Personal Statement		X

**Note to Applicants:** Applications are due by **October 20, 2023**. Applications received after this date will be accepted on a rolling basis until all available seats are filled. Please submit all of the documents above as a complete package to the McNair office location below. If you have any questions about the application and/or regarding your eligibility, please contact our office.



**McNair Scholars Program @ the University of New Hampshire**  
 89 Main Street, Hood House, Room 203 Durham, NH 03824  
 Office: 603-862-0002  
 Email: [mcnair.program@unh.edu](mailto:mcnair.program@unh.edu), Website: [www.unh.edu/mcnair](http://www.unh.edu/mcnair)



# UNH McNair Scholars Program Application, 2023-2024

**PATHWAY TO THE PH.D.**

## **McNair Application Instructions**

*Please complete the following and attach it to your application. Your name should appear in the top right corner of each page of your personal statement. Please do not submit the "instructions" page with your application.*

### **I. Personal Statement (300 - 500 words)**

Please write a statement explaining what motivates you to pursue a graduate degree, with a focus on the following point:

- Describe any activities (coursework, extra curriculars, internships) you have engaged in that will help you prepare to pursue a graduate degree.
- In what ways would you like the McNair Program to help strengthen your preparedness for graduate school?
- Finally, outline one or more research interests upon which you would like to focus during your time as a McNair scholar.

### **II. Letters of Recommendation (2)**

Two letters of recommendation are required in your application packet (forms are provided). These letters must come from **faculty members**, preferably in your major. Distribute the enclosed form to your recommenders. Ask them to complete the attached form and return it along with their letter by email to [Kate.Luksha@unh.edu](mailto:Kate.Luksha@unh.edu).

### **III. Official College/University Transcripts**

Your signature on this application acts as a records release form, allowing the McNair Program to obtain an unofficial copy of your transcript from the university to further verify your eligibility for the UNH McNair Scholars Program.

### **IV. Most Recent Student Aid Report (SAR)**

Please submit a copy of your most recent SAR. Students may access their SAR by logging onto their [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) account. If assistance is needed with printing the SAR, please contact the McNair Office.

# McNair Application Checklist

PAGE 1 of 5

UNH ID#	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_ Senior

## Checklist:

- Completed and Signed Application
- Requested Two Letters of Faculty Recommendations (list names below)

Recommender 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Signature Release Form for UNH Transcripts
- College/University Transcripts
- Personal Statement
- Copy of Most Recent FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Copy of Permanent Resident Card (if applicable)

Comments: (enter any notes about your application here)

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-McNair Student (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant is (check all that apply): \_\_\_\_\_

- First-Generation
- Income Eligible
- Underrepresented

Admission Decision:

- Accepted
- Waitlisted
- Denied (reason)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# McNair Application

PAGE 2 of 5

Applicant Information			
<b>UNH ID#</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Initial</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Preferred Name</b>	<b>Pronouns (e.g., she, her, hers)</b>	
	<b>Current Address</b>	<b>Permanent Address</b>	
<b>Street/Apt. #</b>			
<b>City</b>			
<b>State</b>			
<b>Zip Code</b>			
<b>Mobile Phone</b>		<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
<b>Citizenship* (select one)</b>		<b>Ethnicity (select one)</b>	<b>Race (select all that apply)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent U.S. Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White

**\* If you are not a U.S. citizen, please attach a photocopy of your permanent resident card.**

Educational Information		
<b>Major(s)</b>	<b>Minor(s)</b>	
<b>Class Standing</b>	<b>Cumulative GPA</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior		
<b>Total Credit Hours Earned</b>	<b>Credits Registered</b>	<b>Expected Graduate Date</b>
<b>What is the highest degree you seek to obtain?</b>		<b>Proposed Graduate Program</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> Master's <input type="checkbox"/> Ed.D. <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____		
<b>Did you transfer to UNH from a community college or another university?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   If Yes, School: _____ Month(s)/Year(s) _____		

# McNair Application

PAGE 3 of 5

## Prior TRIO Participation

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

- Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)  Student Support Services (SSS)  Talent Search  
 Upward Bound  Upward Bound Math-Science  Veterans Upward Bound

## Research Plans

McNair Scholars conduct research under the guidance of a faculty member. If you are unable to locate a mentor, the McNair staff may be able to assist you. Please identify your faculty mentor and anticipated topic if known.

Faculty Mentor Name	Faculty Department

How did you hear about the McNair Scholars Program? (Select all that apply)

- McNair Scholar  McNair Staff  McNair Mentor  McNair Peer Advisor  Other Faculty/Staff  
 Friend  Poster  Recruiting Event  Social Media  Other

If Other, Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

# McNair Application

PAGE 4 of 5

## Signature Release Form

UNH ID#	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial

This release form enables the UNH McNair Scholars Program to obtain the following information for the purpose of determining eligibility, developing education plans, and collecting program statistics:

- College/university admission & enrollment
- Grade reports/transcripts
- Financial aid reports and information regarding scholarships, fellowships, and other awards received
- U.S. residency status
- Current contact information (address, phone number, email address)
- Past TRIO participation

Aspects of this information and the nature of your participation in the McNair Scholars Program may be shared with the U.S. Department of Education, the McNair Program Advisory Committee and UNH personnel in accordance with federal regulations and UNH policy.

My signature below indicates that I hereby authorize the release of my academic, personal, and medical (when necessary) records to the McNair Scholars Program at the University of New Hampshire for the purpose of serving my needs and meeting its federal regulations. I also hereby attest that, to the best of my knowledge, the information given in this application is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature	Date

# McNair Application

PAGE 5 of 5

Please read and sign the following statement:

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded project designed to increase the number of underrepresented individuals pursuing doctoral study. The information on this form is required and is strictly confidential; it will only be used to determine eligibility.

I hereby certify that all the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further authorize the University of New Hampshire Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program to access and review my academic transcripts for the purposes of verifying my eligibility and aiding in my potential selection for the program.

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

Please return to:

McNair Scholars Program @ the University of New Hampshire  
Hood House, Room 203, Durham, NH 03824  
Office: 603-862-0002  
Email: [mcnair.program@unh.edu](mailto:mcnair.program@unh.edu), Website: [www.unh.edu/mcnair](http://www.unh.edu/mcnair)



University of  
New Hampshire

McNair Scholars Program

Office Notes ONLY

Office Notes ONLY



# UNH McNair Scholars Program Application, 2023-2024

## Letter of Recommendation: Recommender # 1

Applicant: *Except for the contents of this box*, this form must be completed by your recommender and can be submitted directly to the McNair office via email.

I HEREBY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO EXAMINE THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I REALIZE THAT THE UNH MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL UTILIZE THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MY ADMISSION TO THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS 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 their McNair Scholars Program application. To ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and submit your letter directly to our office via email.

In addition to completing the chart below, we ask that you 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 Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

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

Attributes/Skills	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Critical thinking skills					
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					





# UNH McNair Scholars Program Application, 2023-2024

## Letter of Recommendation, Recommender # 2

Applicant: *Except for the contents of this box*, this form must be completed by your recommender and can be submitted directly to the McNair office via email.

I HEREBY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO EXAMINE THIS LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. I REALIZE THAT THE UNH MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL UTILIZE THIS RECOMMENDATION ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MY ADMISSION TO THE MCNAIR SCHOLARS 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 their McNair Scholars Program application. To ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and submit your letter directly to our office via email.

In addition to completing the chart below, we ask that you 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 Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

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

Attributes/Skills	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Critical thinking skills					
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					