

**Are you interested in earning a Doctorate degree? We can help!**

**Application Packet**

**Please note: Seating is limited and the application process is competitive!  
After reviewing your application if we are interested an interview will be requested.**

Completed applications can be emailed to [krusell@uab.edu](mailto:krusell@uab.edu).

Applications also can be returned or mailed to:

Attention: K. Russell, Ed.D.

The McNair Scholars Program, UAB

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

1720 2nd Ave S

Sterne Library - Room 222, H1

Birmingham, AL 35233

(205) 996-1561

## **Program Information:**

The Renowned Ronald E. McNair Program at UAB is an educational opportunity program that is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The program at UAB is funded to serve 25 students each year. The mission of the McNair Scholars Program is to provide disadvantaged college students with effective preparation for doctoral study.

To be eligible for our program each student must be a first generation college student with a limited family income or a member of an under-represented group in graduate education (African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders). Additionally, students must be: a citizen or permanent resident, an undergraduate student who is enrolled full-time at UAB (sophomore, junior, or senior), have a minimum 3.0 GPA, have an interest in conducting research, and is committed to attending graduate school and earning a doctorate degree.

The McNair Scholars Program is committed to providing the following services: opportunities for research or other scholarly activities that prepare students for doctoral study, summer internships, seminars for doctoral study, free tutoring, free printing, academic counseling, and assisting students in securing admission and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs. We also are committed to providing educational or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students, faculty mentoring, exposing students to cultural events and academic programs, providing GRE preparation, graduate school tours, and assistance with personal statements.

**FYI: Students must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or Ed.D. only!**

**We are seeking students who are interested in pursuing a doctorate degree in a concentrated area: Biology, Chemistry, Math, History, English/Literature, Business, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Engineering, Computer Science, Education, Physics, Theatre, Music, Public Health, and MD/PhD etc. Majors that are excluded include JD, PharmD, MD, PT, OT, and DNP.**

**See staff for additional exclusions.**

# The McNair Scholars Program at UAB - Application Packet

The following information is needed to evaluate your application for acceptance into the McNair Scholars Program and to help determine which services you need. The information you provide will be treated confidentially.

## Applicant Information

Full Name:  Date:

Current Address:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

Cell Phone:  E-mail Address:

UAB BOO #:  Date of Birth:

Emergency Contact (Name, Phone Number, Relation:

Major:  Minor:  Expected Graduation Date:

Classification:  Gender:  Marital Status:

How did you hear about the McNair Program?

T-Shirt Size:

Have you ever attended a community or junior college? If so please write the name, date(s) of attendance, and location of the junior/community college below.

## Eligibility

### **Citizenship**

Are you a citizen of the United States?  Yes  No

If not, please explain:

### **Ethnic Background**

If not listed, please list:

### **Educational Level of Parent(s) /Guardian(s):**

Highest Level of Education Completed by **Mother/Legal Guardian**

Highest Level of Education Completed by **Father/Legal Guardian**

Who did you reside with until your 18th Birthday?

Other situations, please explain:

### **Income Verification**

*In order to qualify for our program we must determine if you have a low-income by reviewing your taxable income. Please attach one of the following documents to your application: your parents (if dependent) 2021 filed income taxes OR a processed financial aid form OR verification of family income from another governmental source, OR a signed statement regarding income from independent student or parent (including the number of people in your household and how much money you and or your parent or guardian earn per month.)*

**For Financial Aid purposes, are you considered independent or dependent?**  Independent  Dependent

*(A dependent student is under the age of 24, single, with no dependents, and no military service.)*

### **This section is for dependant students:**

If you are dependent please list your parents/guardians names:

If you are dependent, with whom did/do you live with?

If you are dependent, did your parents file taxes for last year:  Yes  No

If you are dependent, please indicate your parents Taxable Income 2021 (Line 43 on 1040, Line 6 on 1040 EZ, Line 27 on 1040A).

If you are dependent, number in household claimed on your parents income tax:

**This section is for independent students:**

If you are independent, did you file taxes for last year:  Yes  No

If you are dependent, please indicate your parents Taxable Income 2021 (Line 43 on 1040, Line 6 on 1040 EZ, Line 27 on 1040A).

If you are independent, number in household claimed on your parents income tax:

**Independent and Dependent students please answer the questions below:**

Have you applied for Financial Aid for the 2022-2023 academic year?  Yes  No

Have you received your Financial Aid Award Notice?  Yes  No

If neither you nor your parents filed taxes in 2021 what was the income source?

Social Security

TANIF

Child Support

Other:

## Tracking

**The McNair Scholar's Program is responsible for tracking students until they attain their PhD/Ed.D.**

Please list your permanent address.

Address:

*Street Address*

*Apartment/Unit#*

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Home Phone:

Alternate E-mail Address:

Please list your username on the following social sites: **Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat.**

**Facebook:**

**Instagram:**

**Snapchat:**

**Twitter:**

Please list contact information of at least three family members who are not included in this application (Ex: siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins.)

Full Name:  Relationship:

Company:  Phone:

Address:

Full Name:  Relationship:

Company:  Phone:

Address:

Full Name:  Relationship:

Company:  Phone:

Address:

## Interests

Plans after graduation:  Graduate School  Professional School (M.D., J.D., Etc.)  Full-Time Employment

Other (specify):

Are you interested in earning an Ed.D. or a Ph. D?  Yes  No  Maybe

If you are interested in pursuing a PhD/Ed.D please check the area(s) that interests you:

- |                                        |                                      |                                                       |                                              |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English       | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology           | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Art         | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater Arts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physics       | <input type="checkbox"/> History     | <input type="checkbox"/> Biology                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science    | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemistry  | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutritional Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Education     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genetics      | <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Neuroscience                 | <input type="checkbox"/> MD/PHD              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacology  | <input type="checkbox"/> Physiology  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vision Science               | <input type="checkbox"/> Educ. Leadership    |                                        |

If your major is not listed above please write it below:

Are you available to complete a research internship for the upcoming summer for 35 hours a week for eight to ten weeks?

- Yes     No     Maybe

Do you have a current research topic that you are interested in?     Yes     No     Maybe

If yes, please list:

McNair Scholars conduct research under the guidance of a UAB faculty member. If a professor has already agreed to serve as your mentor, please enter their information (name, e-mail, phone number)

The McNair Scholars Program will require an ample amount of your time. Are you involved in any clubs/organizations, internships/activities that will prevent you from fulfilling your obligations to the McNair Scholars Program?

- Yes     No     Maybe

Are you in one of the following programs? (Check all that apply)

- TRIO SSS (STEM-H)     TRIO SSS (Classic)     UAB Honor's College  
 Undergraduate Research Ambassador     Black Male Excellence Network

Other organizations that you are a part of:

Your areas of need (Check all that apply):

- |                                                      |                                                      |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate School Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate School Research    | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Program Selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid Advising      | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Advising           | <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study Skills                | <input type="checkbox"/> GRE Preparation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Taking Skills         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring Relationships     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Counseling        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Internships          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure to Cultural Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Activities     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminars                    |                                                      |                                                     |

## Additional Information Needed

To ensure that your application is complete, make sure that you:

- 1. Attach a 1 to 2-page resume' to this application** (Please make sure your awards/honors, leadership experience, research experience, and the organizations that you are a part of on campus are listed on your resume').
- 2. Attach a personal statement.** Your personal statement should be typed using Microsoft Word (One page, use Times New Roman font, font size: 12, doubled-spaced).  
In the essay you will explain the following:
  - a. Why you should be selected to participate in the McNair Scholars program and what you expect to gain from being a participant in the program.
  - b. Describe your current research interests and your prior research experience.
  - c. State why you would like to attend graduate school, your motivation for pursuing a doctorate degree, and your educational and career goals.
  - d. If you pursue a doctorate degree what contributions would you make to your field.  
(Please have a different paragraph for each section.)
- 3. Three recommendations are required.** (Two from faculty/one personal.) The two faculty members must be from two instructors who instructed you for a course. The personal reference can be from a previous boss, staff member at UAB, advisor, room-mate, friend, or family member. The recommendation forms are attached to this application.)
- 4. Please attach your income verification as identified under the section entitled "Eligibility."**  
Income Verification In order to qualify for our program we must determine if you have a low-income by reviewing your taxable income. Please attach one of the following documents to your application: your parents (if dependent) 2021 filed income taxes OR a processed financial aid form OR verification of family income from another governmental source, OR a signed statement regarding income from independent student or parent (including the number of people in your household and how much money you and or your parent or guardian earn per month.)

***If your resume, essay, faculty recommendations and income verification are not attached to this application, we cannot fully process your application. (Faculty recommendations can be scanned and e-mailed to [krusell@uab.edu](mailto:krusell@uab.edu) or delivered to the department.) All applications without the following documents will be considered incomplete and not eligible for an interview.***

## Disclaimer and Signature

*I hereby affirm that all of the information provided in this application to be true and complete to my knowledge; I understand that any false information given will result in the loss of participation opportunity. I further authorize the McNair Scholars Program to retrieve copies of my academic transcript.*

Signature:

Date



For Departmental Use Only

<b>Size of Family Unit</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States, D.C. and Outlying Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
<b>1</b>	\$19,320	\$24,135	\$22,230
<b>2</b>	\$26,130	\$32,655	\$30,060
<b>3</b>	\$32,940	\$41,175	\$37,890
<b>4</b>	\$39,750	\$49,695	\$45,720
<b>5</b>	\$46,560	\$58,215	\$53,550
<b>6</b>	\$53,370	\$66,735	\$61,380
<b>7</b>	\$60,180	\$75,255	\$69,210
<b>8</b>	\$66,990	\$83,775	\$77,040

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,810 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$8,520 for Alaska; and \$7,830 for Hawaii.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The 2021 poverty guidelines are in effect as of January 13, 2021. Federal Register notice was published February 1, 2021.

## Recommendation Form

Name of Applicant:

The individual named above is in the process of applying to the McNair Scholars Program at UAB. The McNair Scholars Program is a highly competitive program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to prepare sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are both limited-income and first generation, or underrepresented in graduate education for doctoral education, specifically Ph.D.'s and Ed.D's. This rigorous program assists students in the attainment of their educational and personal goals through participation in research and other academic/scholarly activities.

1. In what capacity have you known this student and for how long?

2. Can you please estimate the student's potential to achieve a PhD/EdD?

High

Medium

Low

Not applicable

3. In your opinion, does the applicant possess the drive and commitment to pursue graduate education? Please explain.

4. Do you believe that the applicant has the potential to be a researcher in the chosen field of study, if given the opportunity and preparation? Please explain.

5. Please describe why you think the student would be successful as a McNair Scholar:

Signature:

Date:

Title:

Department:

Please print or Type Your Name:

***Thank you for taking the time to complete this recommendation form. Please return the completed recommendation form to the McNair Scholars Program, UAB, SL (VMASC), Room 222-Office H1, or email it to [krusell@uab.edu](mailto:krusell@uab.edu).***

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