

McNair Scholars Program Central Michigan University

MENTOR FACT SHEET

The McNair Scholars Program works with low income and first generation college students and underrepresented students to prepare them for graduate study, and more specifically, the attainment of a Ph.D. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the program offers a variety of services such as writing/communication seminars, preparation for the graduate application process and GRE training. Scholars receive financial support in the form of a federal stipend, living allowance and travel allowance for conference presentations and graduate school visits. During the Summer Research Institute, scholars conduct original research under the guidance of a faculty research mentor. As such, participation of faculty mentors in the scholar's research experience is critical to the success of the program. While it remains up to each scholar and mentor to determine the scope and format of their individual project, the McNair Program strives to maintain the following guidelines:

- McNair mentors should be full-time faculty members at CMU, actively conducting research and publishing in their respective fields
- Mentors must be willing to work with the scholar to develop an independent, original research project that fits within the timeframe of being developed during the spring and completed during the summer; it is preferable that mentors be available on a regular basis (spring/summer), especially at critical points during the project (see project timeline – on reverse side – for more details)
- Faculty mentors will offer guidance on the presentation of scholar research at various conferences; it is preferable that mentors be willing to suggest ways for the scholar to present at a professional conference within their discipline and to help facilitate this process
- In addition to supervising the research project, the McNair Program anticipates that mentors offer general support to the scholars in the form of graduate school advising
- As McNair scholars are required to present their research projects at McNair and CMU-sponsored research symposiums in the fall and the Student Research and Creative Endeavors Exhibition (SRCEE) in the spring, McNair mentors are expected to support their scholar in preparation for formal presentations

Prospective faculty mentors should keep the following in mind:

- McNair mentors will receive \$500 in supplemental pay in appreciation for their role as a research mentor
- Once a scholar confirms their selection of a mentor, the McNair associate director will provide detailed program information and will meet individually with each new mentor to answer any questions and address any concerns
- Mentors will also be invited to attend an orientation session, during which they will receive an opportunity to meet fellow McNair mentors and learn more about the program
- Mentors will be expected periodically to submit scholar progress reports throughout the duration of the research experience, as well as keep McNair staff updated on the development of the mentoring relationship

See Research Project Timeline on Reverse Side

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your support of the McNair Scholars Program!

For more information please contact Lynn Curry at 774-1138 or visit www.mcnair.cmich.edu.

RESEARCH PROJECT TIMELINE

In conjunction with the McNair Research Writing and Communication class and their faculty research mentor, each scholar will design a project that conforms to the requirements of the program during the spring semester. Scholars then carry out the research and complete their projects during the Summer Research Institute (SRI) – spending 200 hours over ten weeks on average. It is very important that faculty research mentors understand that while the research experience is a central component of the McNair Program, there are additional aspects that are equally critical to the overall McNair experience. This means that while the program strives to accommodate special needs and/or requirements of individual projects, research projects should be designed to fit within the following timeframe. Note that some McNair scholars do receive the opportunity to continue to work with their mentors, expanding their project and potentially publishing it.

In addition to the research experience, McNair scholars participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them for graduate school. This includes scholar workshops and seminars, GRE prep course, symposia, conferences and visits to prospective graduate institutions. While the scholars conduct their research during the summer, an equal amount of time is spent preparing to apply to graduate school. These activities are not intended to compete with their research, but rather, complement that experience and further prepare scholars to be successful at the doctoral level.

Faculty research mentors should note the following dates and deadlines for the 2009 cohort:

January 19	Mentor selection due
March 27	Scholar progress report due
April 10	Draft proposal due
April 14	PowerPoint presentation due
April 15	Presentation practice session
April 22	Presentation practice session
April 30	McNair Spring Research Symposium (scholars present proposals)
May 1	Final proposal due with mentor approval form

Scholars are expected to devote 20 hours/week on their research projects, 10 hours/week on GRE prep and 10 hours/week on graduate school prep during the summer

Week of May 18	SRI begins (scholar activities run from 9 – 4 p.m. daily this week)
Week of May 25	Scholars attend Graduate School Training Camp in Indiana
June 1 – June 26	Scholar weekly activities run from 8:15 – 12 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
June 26	Scholar progress report due
Week of June 29	No scheduled activities
July 6 – July 24	Scholar weekly activities run from 8:15 – 12 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.)
July 14	Presentation practice session
July 17	Draft final paper due
August 7	Final paper and draft poster/PowerPoint due
September 9	Final poster and PowerPoint due
September 11	Presentation practice session
September 18	Presentation practice session
September 25	McNair Fall Research Symposium (scholars present projects)
October 2	CMU Fall Research Symposium (scholars present posters)

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