



McNair Scholars Program

Undergraduate Research and Pre-graduate Preparation Program

GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY MENTORS AND STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The UCSB McNair Scholars Program is designed to create an academic culture of achievement that offers high quality, one-on-one mentoring support to low-income first-generation and underrepresented undergraduate students annually, with the principal objective of overcoming academic, financial and personal development challenges that are traditional barriers to post-baccalaureate educational access and completion.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the program is to support the academic aspirations and develop the research skills of our undergraduate participants in mentored research. Students will learn by participating in research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Upon completion of the program, students will have:

- A written report and assessment of the work done in the research internship
- An awareness of key components of the graduate school application process
- An assessment of study, writing, note taking and other academic skills
- Familiarity with all aspects of the GRE exam and practice in vocabulary
- Experience presenting an oral presentation at a McNair National Undergraduate Research Conference
- A McNair Scholar support system

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students will be involved in research projects based on their defined area of research interest. Students are required to contact their mentor once the students have identified research interest, opportunity, and faculty mentor availability. Scholars should discuss the nature of the work to be undertaken and to develop a schedule for future contact and project research.

Students' research should be consistent with that of the faculty mentors research. Students should be shown where and how their work fits the overall goal or direction of the mentor's research.

Students should expect to put in a few hours a week on their projects, which may include work on evenings and weekends, as the project and mentor/advisor may require. Research mentors will expect continued and sustained work through the end of the academic year from the student researchers.

Students should expect to meet a minimum of once a month with their research mentor/McNair advisor depending on the project and the mentor's arrangement. Less frequent contact is not advised unless the research mentor/advisor will be away from campus temporarily or unless prior arrangements are made.

Students will be expected to meet with the McNair program staff about once a week during regularly scheduled seminars to discuss the progress of research project and prepare for the graduate school application process.

Throughout the program, students will be required to prepare assignments as stated in the quarterly seminar syllabus and follow the McNair Scholar Program Accountability Policy.

Students can expect advice and guidance about graduate school admission, graduate work career opportunities in research and teaching and from the Faculty Mentors and the McNair Scholars Program staff.

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Students will be asked to evaluate the program and their research experience at the end of the program.

FACULTY MENTOR EXPECTATIONS

Research mentors should work with the student(s) to develop a work schedule for the student's project, outline research goals and methodologies, and establish guidelines for the student researchers to follow on a quarterly basis. The McNair Staff will ask for a written outline of the student's work plan at the beginning of each quarter.

Research mentors should be available to assist scholars prepare assignments given by the McNair Scholars Program related to the research project.

Research mentors should be aware that scholars are expected to meet with them and/or the research team throughout the program.

Faculty members train graduate students research assistants in "hands-on" research; in turn, these graduate students may serve as mentors for undergraduates, under the careful tutelage of the faculty mentor. They serve as role models for undergraduates, and they are apprentices being trained by the faculty to become their junior colleagues.

Research mentors will acquaint students with the "culture" of research and will discuss career opportunities in the discipline, especially teaching and academic research. One of the program benefits to the student is developing a professional relationship with the faculty mentor. Frequent interaction with the student provides the mentor with knowledge about the student's ability, work, performance, and potential for graduate school. Students will therefore be encouraged to ask their mentors for letters of recommendation when they apply to graduate school.

Research mentors may expect ongoing written or oral reports (or both) from the students as deemed necessary. Research mentors will be asked at the end of the program to submit an evaluation form to the McNair Scholars Program on the student's work.

If a student must miss a required McNair Scholars Program activity because of the research project or other related activity as required by the faculty mentor, please notify the McNair Scholars Program Staff. Students must satisfactorily complete all assignments required by the McNair Program and those done in conjunction with their faculty mentor in the coming academic years.

PROGRAM STAFF

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