

The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program will accept completed applications for participation through

3:00 pm on Friday, November 13, 2009.

(Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.)

All application packets MUST include the following required documents:

- The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Application Form (three pages, initialed and signed by the applicant)
- Copy of Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) (if required, see page 2 of application)
- List of Previous Research Experience (typed)
- The Statement of Purpose Essay (800 words maximum, typed)
- A completed Progress Toward Graduation Form (showing enrollment at least through December 2010 and signed by the applicant and their academic advisor)
- Completed Pre-Program Assessment Form (signed and dated)
- A Faculty Letter of Recommendation Form, signed by the applicant and submitted in a sealed envelope signed across the flap by the recommender (completed by a SOU faculty member from the applicant's major department, or by a faculty member of a college/university from which the applicant recently transferred)
- A Letter of Recommendation Form, signed by the applicant and submitted in a sealed envelope signed across the flap by the recommender (completed by a faculty member, a mentor, an employer or supervisor, or some other person who can recommend the applicant)
- Unofficial (or official) copies of transcripts from **each and every** college and university previously attended, including current transcript showing enrollment at SOU.

Optional Document: An up-to-date Resume or Curriculum Vitae.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to obtain all required documents and letters requested and return them all in one packet prior to the application deadline.

Completed Application Packets must be returned to:

The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Southern Oregon University, Taylor Hall, Suite 125
1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland, OR 97520

Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview with the SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Advisory Council.

Note: Applicants who are selected to be McNair Scholars **will** be required to provide official transcripts from all prior colleges and universities attended and **may** be required to provide copies of income tax forms to verify eligibility.

What is Graduate School?

Graduate school is the next step of academic study and training beyond a baccalaureate degree. It is an opportunity for in-depth focus in one particular area.

At the graduate level, there are, in general two broad categories of degrees: professional and academic. Professional degrees are designed to prepare a person for specialized work in a particular field. As such, they tend to focus more on practical application of skills and concepts, with less emphasis focused on theory and/or research. Professional degrees are offered in fields such as: art (MFA), business (MBA), education (MAT, Ed.D.), law (JD), medicine (MD), social work (MSW), counseling (MAP, Psy.D.), dentistry (DMD), veterinary medicine (DVM), etc. Academic degrees are designed for more in-depth study and research in a particular field. Those seeking degrees in the broad category of academic degrees are often strongly interested in scholarly or high-level research work.

The two most common graduate degrees are the Master and the Doctoral. A Master's degree program is usually about two years in length. While there are many types of Master's degree programs, the most common are the Master of Arts (MA) and the Master of Science (MS). Some Master's Degree programs are terminal, meaning that they are not intended as a stepping-stone to further study (doctoral work). Typically, these are professional degrees. Master's programs are often coupled with licensure or certification programs. Some Doctoral degrees are also professional degrees and those can take from two to seven years to complete.

A Doctor of Philosophy degree, also known as a Ph.D., is the highest degree one can achieve and trains one to be a scholar in a particular field. On average it takes between five and seven years to complete a Ph.D. Those with doctoral degrees teach and conduct research at the university level and/or work in industry as specialists within their subject area. A few graduate programs are designed to combine a professional degree program and an academic degree program and in those programs a person simultaneously earns dual degrees such as a MD/Ph.D.

People choose to pursue graduate degrees for a variety of reasons: for example, increased knowledge, personal fulfillment, increased salary, and enhanced career opportunities. A graduate degree may be a minimum qualification for some jobs. Some people choose the graduate school educational path based solely on their genuine passion for learning and deep interest in a specific subject.

Graduate programs typically allow the student to be a part of a small community of people with similar interests and provide the opportunity to interact more closely with professors. It is common to work closely with one faculty member on research or professional skill-building projects. Typically, graduate courses will have smaller numbers of students enrolled and the content will be much more focused than undergraduate courses.

Attending a graduate program requires a considerable commitment of time, energy, effort and money. However there are substantial economic rewards for completing a graduate degree. People who have earned a graduate level degree have higher lifetime incomes, higher yearly incomes, and lower rates of unemployment than people who have not completed a graduate level degree.



The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is one of the TRiO programs from the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to prepare participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds, have demonstrated strong academic potential, and have been selected for the honor of participating in the program. The program works closely with these participants through their undergraduate requirements, encourages their entrance into doctoral programs, and tracks their progress throughout their successful completion of the Ph.D.

Students who are eligible to apply for the SOU McNair program are:

- Enrolled students who will be a Sophomore, Junior or Senior by Winter 2010 (January 2010);
- Students who plan to be enrolled as an undergraduate student at SOU through at least Fall term 2010 (December 12, 2010);
- Have demonstrated strong academic potential (an overall 2.75 GPA or better);
- Have never enrolled in a Doctoral Program.

And either (1 or 2):

1. Who are potentially **first generation college graduates** (a student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree) **AND** who are **low-income** individuals (an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150% of the poverty level amount).

OR

2. Who are students from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (Hispanic/Chicano/Latino, Black/African American, American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander). Note: Students from this category do not have to be first generation college students or low-income individuals.

During the SOU McNair program student scholars work closely with the Program Director and with a McNair Faculty Mentor from their academic major. The SOU McNair program (www.sou.edu/mcnair) offers McNair students specialized seminars and workshops designed to enhance acceptance into doctoral programs, assistance in locating and applying for funding for doctoral programs, and support to increase the student's potential for post-baccalaureate achievement. The McNair Seminars are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 am to 7:50 am. The program provides financial resources for: travel to conferences, symposiums, meetings, cultural activities, access to tutors, research-related supplies, the opportunity to develop and conduct a research project related to their major, and access to the McNair Computer Technology Center. The students who participate in the SOU McNair Program Summer Research Internship receive a \$2,800 stipend.

The program is designed to ensure that the student Scholars receive the Baccalaureate Degree, enroll in graduate school, and have the knowledge, skills, and background preparation that are required to successfully complete a doctoral program. Nationally, students from low-income backgrounds are eight times less likely to complete a bachelor degree than non-disadvantaged students. However, the statistics for students participating in McNair Programs reveal extremely high rates of baccalaureate matriculation and enrollment into graduate school programs, and these rates are much higher than rates for comparable populations who have not participated in the McNair Program.

SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program 2010 COHORT APPLICATION, Fall Term 2009

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____
Last First Middle

Current Address _____
Apt # City State Zip

Permanent Address _____
Apt # City State Zip

SOU/Local Phone (____) _____ Permanent Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Home Town and State _____

Social Security Number _____ SOU ID Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____ Male Female

Citizenship (check one): U.S. Citizen Permanent Resident (Number) _____
 Other (specify) _____

Have you ever received a baccalaureate degree? Yes No

Have you ever enrolled in a doctoral program? Yes No

How do you describe yourself?

Black/African American Hispanic/Chicano/Latino American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native

White/Caucasian Asian Pacific Islander Southeast Asian Native Hawaiian Filipino

How did you find out about the McNair program? Website Friend Class Announcement

Professor Flyer Fair Other: _____

II. FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name _____
Last First Middle

Highest Grade Completed (please circle): 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17+

Father's College/University Degree(s) Earned (check all that apply):
 None Associate Bachelor Master Doctorate

Mother's Maiden Name _____
Last First Middle

Highest Grade Completed (please circle): 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17+

Mother's College/University Degree(s) Earned (check all that apply):
 None Associate Bachelor Master Doctorate

Applicant Initial _____

Are you a transfer student to SOU?

Yes

No

If yes, from which college? _____

What is your current **cumulative** GPA? _____ What is your current **institutional SOU** GPA? _____

At SOU what is your major(s)? _____

At SOU what is your minor(s), if any _____

How many total credits have you completed (prior to this current term)? _____

How many credits are you enrolled in this term? _____

What is your anticipated graduation date for the bachelor degree? *Please Circle Month & Year:*

Month: December March June August	Year: 2010 2011 2012
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Do you intend to apply for graduate school? Yes No

If yes, when do you anticipate entering graduate school? *Please Circle Term & Year:*

Term: Fall Winter Spring Summer	Year: 2011 2012 2013
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What is the highest degree objective that you seek? (Check only one box) Master Ph.D.

Ed.D. Professional Doctorate (J.D., M.D., Psy.D., etc.) Other _____

What is your proposed field of graduate study? _____

V. PRIOR RESEARCH

Please provide a typed list of any **prior research experience you have had in a college or university setting.** (For example, course term papers that required library research, completing research for a research methods course or for an extensive literature review in a course and then writing a paper about it.) **Briefly describe what you accomplished, name the professor(s) with whom you worked or from whom you took the course, and state the title of the paper (if one was written from the research).** (Please type in 12pt font, double space and staple it to the application.)

VI. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ESSAY

The Statement of Purpose Essay is required of all applicants. Please describe the strengths and weaknesses of your preparation for graduate study, your reasons for wishing to undertake graduate study at the doctoral level, and your career objectives. Provide your personal insights as to why you should be selected for participation in this program and what you expect to gain from this experience. In addition, please identify the contributions that you wish to make to your chosen field of study as well as to the community. You should address each of these topics in a statement not to exceed 800 typed words. (Please type in 12pt font, double space your statement and staple it to the application.)



READ AND SIGN THIS STATEMENT

I understand the eligibility criteria for the McNair Program and affirm that all the information I have supplied is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that if I am selected as a Scholar, I will be required to provide official transcripts and may be required to supply income tax forms for verification of eligibility. I understand that if accepted as a McNair Scholar I will be expected to adhere to the tenets of the McNair Scholar Contract.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This section must be completed by the applicant prior to giving the form to the recommender.

Full Legal Name _____

SOU Major(s) _____

Proposed Field of Graduate Study _____

Please Check One:

(Optional) Waiver: I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended in 2001. (The alternative selected will not affect consideration of the application for admission.)

I am not waiving my rights to review this letter of recommendation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Recommender: Please Note: If the student has not waived rights, the student may request a copy of this form and accompanying letter, if any. Please return this form directly to the student in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the flap. It is the student's responsibility to deliver a completed application packet, including this letter of recommendation, to the McNair program NO LATER than October 30, 2009, so please attempt **to return it to the student no later than October 27, 2009.**

(Attach additional pages if needed.)

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

2. Briefly describe your observations of the applicant's motivation for graduate study and/or commitment to the academic and professional goals of attaining a Ph.D.

3. Please rate the applicant on the qualities listed below by a check mark and, if you wish, add comments that you think would be helpful. Use as your standard of comparison other people you have known.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Inconsistent	Weak	No Basis
Intellectual Ability						
Independence of Thought						
Judgment						
Maturity						
Effectiveness of Oral Communication						
Effectiveness of Written Communication						
Quality of Previous Work						
Research Aptitude						

Additional Comments:

4. Please list the areas in which you believe this applicant needs to develop in order to ensure her/his successful admission to an academic doctoral degree program.

Recommender's Name _____ Date _____

School/Other _____ Position/Title _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form directly to the student in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the flap. It is the student's responsibility to deliver a completed application packet, including this letter of recommendation, to the McNair program NO LATER than October 30, 2009, so please attempt **to return it to the student no later than October 27, 2009.**

Thank you for your prompt response.

FACULTY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

(To be completed by a faculty member from the applicant's major department.)

This section must be completed by the applicant prior to giving it to the recommender.

Full Legal Name _____

SOU Major(s) _____

Proposed Field of Graduate Study _____

Please Check One:

(Optional) Waiver: I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended in 2001. (The alternative selected will not affect consideration of the application for admission.)

I am not waiving my rights to review this letter of recommendation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Recommender: Please Note: If the student has not waived rights, the student may request a copy of this form and accompanying letter, if any. Please return this form directly to the student in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the flap. It is the student's responsibility to deliver a completed application packet, including this letter of recommendation, to the McNair program NO LATER than October 30, 2009, so please attempt **to return it to the student no later than October 27, 2009.**

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1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

2. Briefly describe your observations of the applicant's motivation for graduate study and/or commitment to the academic and professional goals of attaining a Ph.D.

3. Please rate the applicant on the qualities listed below by a check mark and, if you wish, add comments that you think would be helpful. Use as your standard of comparison other students in your discipline at SOU.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Inconsistent	Weak	No Basis
Intellectual Ability						
Independence of Thought						
Judgment						
Maturity						
Effectiveness of Oral Communication						
Effectiveness of Written Communication						
Quality of Previous Work						
Research Aptitude						

Additional Comments:

4. Please list the areas in which you believe this applicant needs to develop in order to ensure her/his successful admission to an academic doctoral degree program.

5. If the applicant is selected for participation in the SOU McNair Program, and if you are a SOU Faculty Member with a Ph.D., would you be willing to serve as the applicant's McNair Faculty Mentor?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Recommender's Name _____ Date _____

School/Department _____ Position/Title _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form directly to the student in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the flap. It is the student's responsibility to deliver a completed application packet, including this letter of recommendation, to the McNair program NO LATER than October 30, 2009, so please attempt **to return it to the student no later than October 27, 2009.**

Thank you for your prompt response.

Applicant: _____

Academic Advisor: _____

SOU McNair Application Progress Toward Graduation Plan

Fall 09			Winter 10			Spring 10			Summer 10		
Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit

Fall 10			Winter 11			Spring 11			Summer 11		
Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit

Fall 11			Winter 12			Spring 12			Summer 12		
Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit	Dept. & Number	Title	Credit

Applicant Signature: _____ Academic Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Note: Student must not graduate before 12/2010 and must be enrolled (at least part-time) through Fall 2010.

MCNAIR PROGRAM APPLICATION

PRE-PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

NAME _____

DATE _____

This pre-program assessment will help us to determine priorities in providing you with services. It will also help us to determine at a later date whether or not the McNair Program has been helpful to you.

Please circle the answer which best describes your situation:

How well do you understand:	Not at all					Very well
The requirements of the McNair Program?	1	2	3	4	5	
What you need to do to complete your baccalaureate degree?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to finance graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to choose a graduate program?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to prepare for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to apply to graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5	
Computer skills required for graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to do library research?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to use the Internet for research?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to develop a research proposal in your discipline?	1	2	3	4	5	
How to write a research paper in your discipline?	1	2	3	4	5	
How confident do you feel about making an oral presentation?	1	2	3	4	5	

Let us know any areas in which you think you could use some extra support. Please use the other side of the page.