

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before applying, be sure you qualify. The following are requirements for acceptance into the McNair Program:

1. You must either be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
2. You must either be a first-generation college student (neither parent has a college degree) with financial need (see TRiO Programs 2006 Annual Low Income Levels chart in this package)  
**OR** be in an under-represented group: Black, Hispanic, Native American, or Native Alaskan/Aleut.
3. You will have at least 60 credit hours by the end of Spring semester.
4. You have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
5. You have a desire to earn a doctoral degree.

If you qualify, fill out the form titled, Application for the McNair Program at MTSU.

Write a personal statement of 350-400 words that describes your educational and career goals. (See Application for more details.)

Submit two sealed letters of recommendation from faculty. These should be from individuals who can best assess your ability for academic research and your potential for graduate school. At least one letter must come from a faculty member who has taught a class you have taken. Include the sealed letters with your completed application. If they prefer, your recommenders may email their recommendations to [mcnair@mtsu.edu](mailto:mcnair@mtsu.edu).

When all materials are returned (completed application, personal statement, letters of recommendation) you will be invited for an informal interview with McNair staff, assuming you qualify for the program. This is the final step in the process.

Questions? Call 904-8462.



# APPLICATION FOR THE McNAIR PROGRAM AT MTSU

## PERSONAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MTSU "M" No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt. No. City State ZIPCODE

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Resident No. \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  M  F

Ethnicity:  African American  Caucasian  Hispanic  Native American  Native Alaskan  Asian  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you first-generation college (neither parent or guardian has a Bachelors degree)?  Yes  No

Are you low-income based on the Federal guidelines attached to this application?  Yes  No

What is your cumulative GPA? \_\_\_\_\_ How many credit hours do you have (not counting this semester)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to earn a doctoral degree?  Yes  Maybe  No

How did you hear about the McNair Program? \_\_\_\_\_

## FAMILY

Mother's (guardian's) highest grade completed:  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

Her highest college degree earned, if any:  No degree  Bachelors  Masters  Ed.D.  Ph.D.  M.D.  J.D.

Father's (guardian's) highest grade completed:  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

His highest college degree earned, if any:  No degree  Bachelors  Masters  Ed.D.  Ph.D.  M.D.  J.D.

## FINANCIAL AID

Have you filled out a FAFSA form at MTSU?  Yes  No

**If you check Yes, skip Financial Aid section.**

What is the size of your immediate family, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive financial support from or live with your parents?  Yes  No

Did you file a Federal Income Tax Return last year?  Yes  No

If yes, what was your **taxable** income (not gross income)? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you were claimed as a dependent on your parents' tax return last year, what was their **taxable** income? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you receive financial aid, what type?  Pell  Work Study  Loan(s)  Scholarship(s)

Please specify loans and scholarships. \_\_\_\_\_

Which, if any, of the following do you receive?  Social Security/SSI  AFDC  Child Support  VAGI Bill  Other  None

**WORK**

Are you currently employed?  Yes  No      If yes, how many hours per week?  1-19  20-35  36 or more

Will you be available for an eight-week, 37.5-hour-per-week research internship in the summer during Session III?  Yes  No

**ACADEMIC**

What is your major? \_\_\_\_\_ Your minor? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you considered an area you would like to research in the McNair Program?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

When do you intend to graduate (semester and year)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your intended graduate school major? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you familiar with the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?  Yes  No

Have you thought about which graduate schools you might like to attend?  Yes  No

If yes, please list the graduate schools of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

On a separate sheet of paper to be attached to this application type a personal statement (350-400 words) that describes your educational and career goals. Your statement may also address the following questions: How have you prepared yourself to meet these goals? How does McNair fit into your plans?

**RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

This release authorization enables the McNair Program to obtain copies of all academic and financial aid reports of an applicant, including transcripts and financial aid eligibility. This information may be shared with other university personnel in accordance with Federal regulations and university policy. You have access to all your records in the McNair Program, excluding letters of recommendation.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that all information submitted is complete and accurate. I understand that the failure to disclose information is grounds for not being accepted into the McNair Program at MTSU and/or, if accepted, reason for immediate termination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AID FORM**

Please sign the accompanying Verification of Financial Aid form and return it with this application to the McNair office.

**CHECKLIST**

- Application form complete and signed
- Personal statement complete
- Letters of recommendation requested from two sources
- Verification of Financial Aid form signed

**TO: Financial Aid Office – Please complete and return to the McNair Program,  
Box 301 or fax to 898-5250**

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Student's Name (please print)

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Student "M" Number

I hereby authorize the Middle Tennessee State University McNair Scholars Program to receive copies of all my academic and financial aid records, including enrollment verification, transcripts, financial aid budget/award, and any other information pertaining to my enrollment.

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**Signature of Student**

**Date**

The U. S. Department of Education requires this office to obtain verification of financial aid awards for Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program scholars. Please provide amount(s). Thank you for your cooperation.

|   | <b>Current Year Award</b> |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Present Taxable Income (parents)</b> | \$                        |
| <b>Present Taxable Income (student)</b> | \$                        |
| <b>PELL</b>                             | \$                        |
| <b>SEOG</b>                             | \$                        |
| <b>PERKINS LOAN</b>                     | \$                        |
| <b>CWSP</b>                             | \$                        |
| <b>HHSL</b>                             | \$                        |
| <b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>                      | \$                        |
| <b>STAFFORD LOAN</b>                    | \$                        |
| <b>FELLOWSHIP</b>                       | \$                        |

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**Signature of Authorizing Official**

**Date**

## Federal TRIO Programs 2008 Annual Low Income Levels

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(Effective February 2008 Until Further Notice)

| Size of Family Unit | 48 Contiguous States,<br>D.C., and Outlying<br>Jurisdictions | Alaska   | Hawaii   |
|---------------------|--|----------|----------|
| <b>1</b>            | \$15,600   | \$19,500 | \$17,940 |
| <b>2</b>            | \$21,000   | \$26,250 | \$24,150 |
| <b>3</b>            | \$26,400   | \$33,000 | \$30,360 |
| <b>4</b>            | \$31,800   | \$39,750 | \$36,570 |
| <b>5</b>            | \$37,200   | \$46,500 | \$42,780 |
| <b>6</b>            | \$42,600   | \$53,250 | \$48,990 |
| <b>7</b>            | \$48,000   | \$60,000 | \$55,200 |
| <b>8</b>            | \$53,400   | \$66,750 | \$61,410 |

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,400 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$6,750 for Alaska; and \$6,210 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 poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3,971-3,972.