

FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**The Ronald E. McNair
Post-Baccalaureate
Achievement Program**

The 2022 Undergraduate Ronald E. McNair Application Guidelines

The McNair Scholars Program is a Federal TRIO program designed to prepare first-generation undergraduate students for doctoral studies. The Program supports students from historically underrepresented groups who have a documented financial need and major in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, or Psychology. McNair Scholars engage in courses, seminars, and workshops related to graduate school preparation and professional development. Scholars are also compensated as they conduct summer research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students then have the opportunity to present their research at local, regional, or national conferences. The McNair Program staff works closely with students as they complete their undergraduate requirements and graduate school applications.

The McNair Scholars Program Application is due on March 6th and can be submitted at <https://fiu.academicworks.com/opportunities/12585>

Please complete the [McNair Interest Form](#) and contact the FIU McNair Scholars Team at mcnair@fiu.edu with your panther ID for any concerns regarding the application process and your eligibility. We will work with you to determine the best fit.

Eligibility Criteria

Before pursuing the application process, please ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria. Since the McNair Scholars Program is federally funded, prospective students must meet the required criteria. However, should you find that you fall into a grey area, contact the McNair Team at mcnair@fiu.edu. McNair Scholars Program applicants must adhere to the following:

- Intend to pursue a PhD (professional degrees such as an MD, JD, MBA, PharmD, etc., are not eligible; however, MD/PhD applicants may be considered).
- Are a US citizen or US permanent resident.
- Are a rising junior or senior by Summer 2022 term and have completed approximately 60 credits of undergraduate courses by the start of the 2022 Summer Research Experience (SRE).
- Major in Science, Technology, Engineering, Psychology, or Math (STEM). Some STEM minors may be considered.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.00 scale).
- Are either a first-generation college student (neither parent nor legal guardian has a Bachelor's degree) and have a documented financial need* (based on family size and taxable income) and /or a member of a group historically underrepresented in higher education (e.g., African- American/ Black/ Afro-Caribbean, Latinx/ Latino/Hispanic, Native American/ Indigenous, Pacific Islander, or student with a disability).
- Have identified a research mentor at the time of application and/or demonstrated commitment to research.

***To learn about the documented financial need guidelines (taxable income) 2020 established by the Department of Education, use the [following link](#).**

Federal TRIO Programs Current-Year Low-Income Levels

(Effective **January 15, 2020** until further notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$19,140	\$23,925	\$22,020
2	\$25,860	\$32,325	\$29,745
3	\$32,580	\$40,725	\$37,470
4	\$39,300	\$49,125	\$45,195
5	\$46,020	\$57,525	\$52,920
6	\$52,740	\$65,925	\$60,645
7	\$59,460	\$74,325	\$68,370
8	\$66,180	\$82,725	\$76,095

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,720 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$8,400 for Alaska; and \$7,725 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 2020 poverty guidelines are in effect as of January 15, 2020. Federal Register notice was published January 17, 2020

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html>

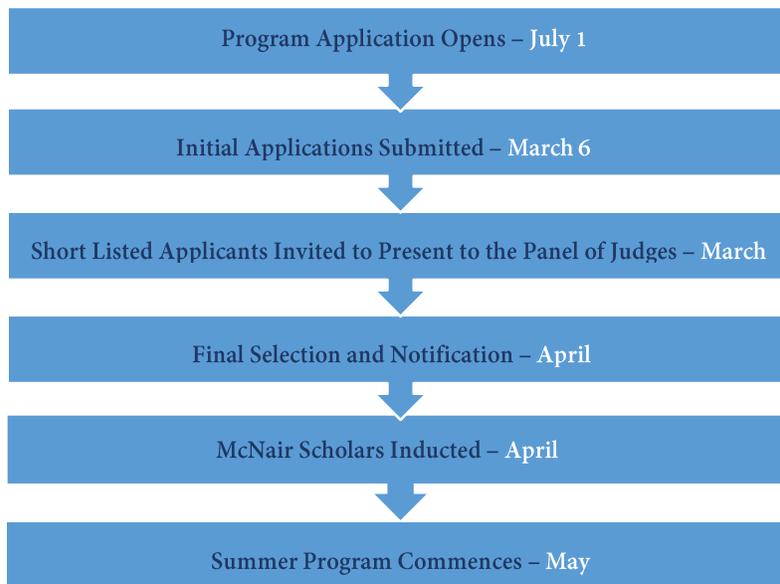
Application Requirements**:

**** (All application documents must be submitted in PDF format. Word to PDF format tutorial)**

1. **A brief essay PDF (1000 words max)** that describes your interest in becoming a McNair Scholar and how it will assist your goal of obtaining a PhD. What are some lived experiences that significantly contributed to your learning and desire to conduct research? Why are you an ideal candidate?
2. **A research abstract PDF (150 words max)** that describes the objectives and the hypothesized outcomes of the proposed study over the ten-week Summer Research Experience (SRE) or Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). Please include the title and the name of your faculty mentor, if available.
3. **A copy of all unofficial transcripts PDF** from Florida International University and other schools attended.
4. **A copy of your Free Application for Student Aid PDF (FASFA).**
5. A copy of your **parent's or parents' income tax return PDF (i.e., 1040 Form)**, if applicable.
6. A copy of your **income tax return PDF (i.e., 1040 Form)**, if applicable.
7. **Complete responses to supplemental questions** within AcademicWorks.
8. **Two PDF letters of recommendation from faculty or research faculty** submitted in the AcademicWorks system on departmental letterhead. The recommendation request for the McNair Scholars Program will only be sent to your recommender once you fully submit your application.

*Priority will be afforded to early applicants and Pre-McNair Scholars.

McNair Scholars Selection Process Timeline



Putting Together a Successful Application

- Start preparing your application early and carefully review the eligibility criteria.
- Be sure to email mcnair@fiu.edu if you want to discuss the application process.
- If you currently do not have a research mentor, start the search process as soon as possible. We

can provide guidance in this area. Give faculty enough advance notice that you are putting together a McNair application and would like them to serve as your mentor.

- Immediately contact the recommenders when asking for reference letters. Your references should be able to speak to the experiences and skills you highlight in your application. Give recommenders enough time to submit a good letter. Share with them the McNair application requirements and the Program expectations.

Strategies for Identifying a Research Mentor

Here are some useful tips for identifying research mentors:

- Make a list of faculty members with whom you have taken courses and whose work has influenced your interest.
- Review the faculty webpages to identify the research projects or labs that align well with your research interests. Most faculty have CVs and research interests listed on their website.
- Talk to fellow undergraduate students who may already be conducting research.
- Talk to Teaching Assistants and graduate students. If you are interested in a particular faculty mentor, her/his websites often list graduate students.
- Visit the department and talk to the departmental graduate assistant(s) regarding faculty availability and research positions.
- Communicate with the McNair Team to guide you through the process. In some exceptional circumstances, the staff can facilitate introductions to the faculty for rising junior applicants, but **please note that the primary responsibility of finding a faculty mentor whose work aligns with your own research interests rests on you.**

FIU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Office of Student Access & Success
Modesto A. Maidique Campus, SASC-205 Mcnair.fiu.edu