



## McNair Scholars Program & UB Faculty: *A Partnership*



### About the Program

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (“McNair Scholars Program”) provides a wide array of services, research opportunities, and other scholarly activities that will prepare students for doctoral study. We offer undergraduates critical research experiences, GRE preparation sessions, mentoring, professional skills, and assistance with the graduate school application process. Students who plan to attend to graduate school to ultimately earn a PhD are our focus.

Federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education, our program maintains a cohort of 30 students throughout the year. There are over 200 McNair Programs across the country and UB’s McNair Program has existed since 1990. The McNair Program is built upon the implicit assumption that doctoral education for the nation’s low-income, first-generation college students, and underrepresented groups is linked, at least in part, to establishing a pipeline at the undergraduate level. The purpose of the program addresses the serious shortage of doctoral recipients among these groups of Americans. The program builds upon the provision that tools of inquiry and study during the undergraduate years will significantly increase graduate school admission, retention, and masters and doctoral graduation rates among these talented groups of students.

Eligible students are:

- ✓ Low-income & first-generation;  
OR from an ethnic group historically underrepresented in doctoral study
- ✓ US citizen or permanent resident
- ✓ Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- ✓ Are a junior or second semester sophomore (*seniors are accepted on a limited basis*)
- ✓ Interested in earning a PhD in their area of interest, have a good academic record, and are committed to attending graduate school

McNair Scholars are able to receive the following:

- Credit-Bearing Weekly Workshops
- GRE Prep Sessions
- Graduate School Fairs
- Laptop Loans
- An Eight-Week Summer Research Internship with a Stipend Totaling at least \$2200
- Opportunities to Attend National Research Conferences and Make Presentations
- Academic Advising
- Faculty Mentoring & Networking Opportunities
- Graduate School Application Fee Waivers
- McNair Fellowships & Assistantships

### University at Buffalo McNair Scholars Program

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## Partnership with Faculty

### Goals of Faculty Involvement

- Garner faculty support of students' research, as well as academic and professional aspirations
- Provide Research Assistants for faculty to support their ongoing research efforts
- Foster a seamless relationship between the undergraduate and graduate divisions on campus through research initiatives
- Support talented undergraduates who want to study at UB and earn a PhD

### Areas of Faculty Involvement

#### ❖ **McNair Research Conference**

##### ***The Conference Center Niagara Falls***

- National undergraduate research conference featuring student research presentations (oral and poster presentations) from a wide variety of disciplines
- Includes speakers, workshops, and a graduate school opportunities fair
- Opportunities for faculty involvement in conference workshops

##### ○ **McNair Graduate School Visit**

- Departments host visiting students who are interested in learning about the program faculty, research, and resources of UB's graduate programs
- An opportunity for UB faculty and graduate programs to promote the opportunities for research, funding, and high quality graduate study

##### ○ **McNair Graduate School Opportunities Fair**

- Students make contacts and develop connections with graduate programs of interests; serves as a recruitment opportunity for national graduate programs
- Representation of UB graduate programs promote graduate study at UB to captive and talented undergraduates from across the country

#### ❖ **McNair Summer Research Internship** - An 8-week paid and coordinated research experience for McNair Scholars to work as Research Assistants supervised by a Faculty Mentor; students receive advising, weekly classes, and oral presentation experience at UB McNair Research Conference

##### ○ **McNair Summer Internship Faculty Mentors**

- Fully integrate interns into the project; discuss the research process and design
- Supervise interns for 5-10 hours a week; evaluate intern's final research project
- Paid mentoring experience: \$400 for supervising one Scholar, \$800 for 2 or more Scholars; a limited budget for reimbursable research expenses incurred during the summer internship

#### ❖ **McNair Advisory Board**

- Provides advisement on project development and activities; serves as program advocates and faculty mentors

#### ❖ **Student Recruitment Efforts**

- Identify eligible or potentially students for the program and refer to our office