

Responsibilities and Commitments of a McNair Scholar



Objectives of the McNair Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the University of North Texas each provide funding to the UNT McNair Scholars Program (MSP), and each entity has established a set of regulations that govern our program. The grant funds we receive from ED are directed at achieving specific objectives to fulfill the purpose of the MSP. The McNair Director and staff are accountable for tracking progress toward as well as accomplishing these objectives each year. The objectives are as follows:

- OBJECTIVE 1: McNair participants will complete research and other scholarly activities while in the program and will receive a bachelor's degree.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Bachelor's degree recipients will be accepted and enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program in the fall term of the academic year immediately following the completion of a bachelor's degree.
- OBJECTIVE 3: McNair Scholars, who are first year graduate students, will continue their enrollment in graduate school at the beginning of the next academic year.
- OBJECTIVE 4: McNair participants will attain a doctoral degree within ten (10) years of the attainment of the bachelor's degree.

Responsibilities, Commitments, and Actions as a McNair Scholar

When accepted into the program, you agree to commit to the purpose of the MSP and the four primary objectives listed above. In addition, you commit to abide by specific rules and regulations established by the McNair Scholar Program administration, the University of North Texas, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Your signature at the end of this document attests that you thoroughly understand your responsibilities and commitments as a McNair Scholar. Failure to carry out your responsibilities and commitments, and/or actions in violations of program rules and regulations will affect your eligibility to continue in the program and/or benefits you receive as a McNair Scholar.

You commit to carry out and be held accountable for the following responsibilities:

- **Identify and select a faculty member**, who agrees to serve as **your mentor**, by the **date specified by the Program** during the new scholar orientation.
- **Attend and actively participate in all** scheduled MSP meetings, workshops, and lectures.
- **Participate in required** professional, educational, and scholarly (research) activities.
- **Seek information** about, select, and attend seminars, conferences, or workshops.
- Attend, actively participate in, and complete the **summer research class** during your first summer in the program.
- Maintain a **minimum 3.0 GPA** per semester.
- Participate in a **tutoring program**, if needed.
- Actively **prepare for the GRE**.
- **Take required** graduate admissions tests (GRE) and **submit a copy** of the results to the McNair staff.

- **Be punctual** when attending all scheduled meetings and other program events.
- Meet with the MSP staff at least **twice per semester** to discuss your academic and research progress.
- Meet with the MSP staff for **mid-semester review** in fall, spring, and summer.
- In fall and spring semesters, **work at least 10 hours/week** on your **mentor-guided research**.
- During at least **one summer session** while in the MSP, carry out **intensive mentor-guided research**; intensive in this context means a **minimum of 300 hours during the period between end of spring semester and beginning of fall semester**.
- **Meet with your faculty mentor(s)** regularly (at least ten times per semester during the academic year and more frequently in the summer) and **document the meetings**.
- **Document your research activity** using the online Research Log form provided by the MSP.
- **Give an oral presentation** on the progress of your research **each spring semester**.
- **Present summer research work** at a scheduled collective poster session **in fall semester**.
- **Release** grades, financial-aid-award notices, and any other relevant information **to MSP staff**.
- **Check your McNair mailbox** at least once a week, **read** the documents, and **clear** the mailbox after reading.
- **Notify** MSP staff of **any changes in** personal, academic, or research related information; use the online **Contact Update** form for any changes to personal information.
- **Check your UNT e-mail messages daily** (i.e., your **my.unt.edu** and/or **your unt.edu** addresses).
- **Complete the exit interview** and packet upon completion of the program.
- **Submit all required documents** to MSP staff **on or before the scheduled deadlines**.
- **Complete** McNair follow-up surveys for the **next 10 years!**