

McNair Scholars Program
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September 28, 2009

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Portland State University. The Ronald E. McNair Program works with motivated and talented undergraduates who want to pursue PhDs. Through academic seminars and a summer research internship, the program introduces PSU juniors and seniors, who are first-generation and low-income, and/or members of under-represented groups, to academic research and to effective strategies for getting into and graduating from PhD programs.

Applications are now due on November 9, 2009 for the cohort starting Winter term 2010. During Winter and Spring, awardees will be enrolled in a McNair Program Seminar designed to prepare scholars for academic research and graduate and doctoral studies. During Summer 2010, scholars will work closely with faculty mentors who will supervise their original research projects and papers.

Program benefits may include a stipend to complete an original research project during a summer internship, funding for research costs, opportunities to participate in academic research conferences as well as other scholarly activities, and membership in an active PSU McNair Scholar community.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program was established in 1986 by the U.S. Department of Education and named in honor of Challenger Space Shuttle astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

In order to be eligible for the program you must:

✓ Be a **first-generation college student** (neither parent graduated from a 4-year college before you turned 18-years-old)
AND
Low-income (family income does not exceed 150% of poverty level established by U.S. Census Bureau)

OR

✓ If you are **not** first-generation and low-income, you must be a **member of a group traditionally under-represented in Higher Education** (African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander)

Additional qualifications include the following:

- ✓ Full-time undergraduate student status at Portland State University
- ✓ Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- ✓ Junior or Senior undergraduate status, based on total credit hours at the start of the program
- ✓ U.S. citizenship or permanent U.S. residency
- ✓ Intention to graduate from Portland State University and immediately enter an academic graduate program with the goal of attaining a PhD

2009-2010 FALL PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 9, 2009

Please contact us at 503-725-9740, or send an email to remcnair@pdx.edu, if you need assistance.

Sincerely,
Jolina Kwong Caputo, Program Coordinator