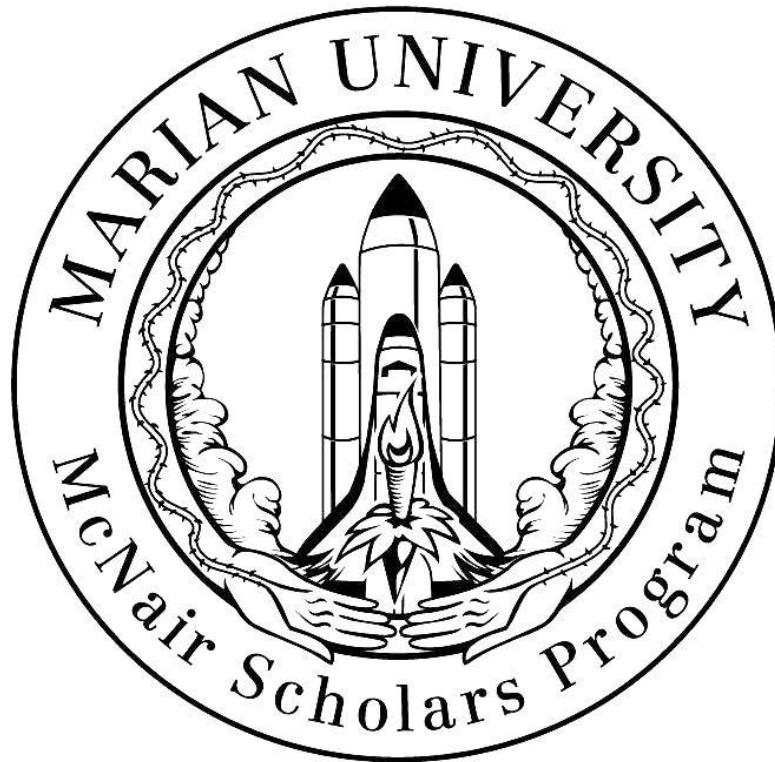


Marian University

McNair Scholars Program



Application Form

2011- 2012

About The Marian University McNair Scholars Program

Marian University is proud to be one of several hundred recipients of Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement (McNair) program awards in excess of 1.1 million dollars. This program established and named in honor of Challenger space shuttle astronaut Ronald E. McNair is underwritten by The Department of Education. It is specifically designed to prepare participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are from **disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential.** Institutions that receive the award work closely with these participants through their undergraduate requirements, encourage their entrance into graduate programs, and track their progress through to their successful completion of advanced degrees. The goal of McNair is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students in **all** disciplines from underrepresented segments of society.

Ronald E. McNair graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971. He earned a doctor of philosophy degree in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He was also a 5th degree black belt Karate instructor and a performing jazz saxophonist, and enjoyed running, boxing, football, playing cards, and cooking.

As a physicist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. McNair performed some of the earliest development of chemical HF/DF and high-pressure CO lasers. Following graduation from MIT in 1976, he became a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California. His assignments included the development of laser technologies for satellite-to-satellite space communications, the construction of ultra-fast infrared detectors, ultraviolet atmospheric remote sensing, and the scientific foundations of the martial arts.

He was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in January 1978, and flew as a mission specialist in 1984. Dr. McNair died on January 28, 1986, during the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. This program is named in his honor and fully supports the Marian Mission to provide access and equity in the fulfillment of life-long learning.

Questions asked on this application form correspond to the requirements for funding from the Department of Education. All information submitted will remain confidential. Data collected from application may be used for statistical purposes related to reporting and assessment.

By signing the agreement forms the applicant signifies that the information submitted is true, complete, and verifiable. If accepted into the Program the applicant will be expected to complete requirements for graduate school application within 3 months of the completion of the baccalaureate degree at Marian University including necessary coursework and entrance exams such as GRE. If for any reason you are not accepted into the Marian University McNair Scholars Program, your information will be returned to you upon written request.

The Marian University McNair Scholars Program will provide:

- \$1,000 McNair Program tuition scholarship per semester of active enrollment (provided for no more than 6 semesters from the time of enrollment in the Program)
- Research stipend of \$2800 for on-site research with an approved Marian Mentor
- Assistance in applying for internships, fellowships and off-site, externally-funded research opportunities
- Paid enrollment in McNair-specific research courses (*MCN 201: Preparing for Research I* and *MCN 401: Performing Research II*) for academic credit
- Mentoring, tutoring, and academic counseling
- Professional development, resume preparation, and career service support
- A laptop computer loan
- Travel support for participation in regional or national conferences
- Summer on-campus housing for McNair-related on-site programming
- Additional funding for approved research expenses
- Numerous unique enrichment experiences, seminars, and other scholarly activities designed to prepare students for graduate level studies throughout the program
- Graduate School preparation workshops
- GRE and PRAXIS preparatory seminars
- Help in completing applications for admission to graduate programs and portfolio preparation assistance
- Service learning opportunities

Once accepted into the program participants in The Marian University McNair Scholars Program will:

- Fulfill eligibility requirements
- Complete necessary course work and research preparatory seminars
- Participate in research and professional preparation courses (*MCN 201: Preparing for Research I*) in the summer preceding the Junior year, including submission of formal research proposal
- Following approval of research proposal, successfully complete an original research project (*MCN 401: Performing Research II*) under the guidance of approved Mentor prior to the start of the Senior year
- Attend and participate in professional enrichment experiences incorporated into the program
- Fulfill **Service Learning** requirements
- Take entrance exams needed for graduate schools in their respective fields
- Meet with mentors and Program Office staff on a regular basis
- Maintain GPA and academic standard requirements
- Follow the guidelines set forth in the ***Marian University McNair Scholars Program Handbook***
- Notify McNair program personnel of any awards, graduate school acceptance, publications in the field, and enrollment in graduate programs
- Provide Program Office staff with tracking information for Federal reporting purposes

A complete Application consists of:

- Applicant Information Form
- Copy of the tax form that declares the applicant as a dependent (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ)
- Student Transcripts
- Statement of Purpose
- Marian McNair Scholars Program Information Release Form
- Two letters of recommendation from Marian faculty members (see page 11).

Completed applications should be submitted to the Program Office and will be reviewed as they are received.

Application Packet

Directions: Please fill in each of the following pages accurately and completely. You must sign in the spaces provided at the bottom of the page for each section. All information submitted will be subject to verification. All pages of the Application Packet should be submitted together at one time. This includes letters of recommendation.

Applicant Information Form

I. Applicant Background

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Local Address _____
Street Apt #

_____ City State Zip Code

Permanent Address _____
Street Apt #

_____ City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Gender: _____

Marian University ID Number: _____

Preferred Telephone Contact Number(s):
Mobile (____) _____
Home (____) _____
Work (____) _____

Citizenship: U.S. Citizen___ Permanent Resident (A# _____)

II. Educational Background

Please fill in the grid with the names of all colleges and universities attended

Institution	Enrollment from (mo/yr)	Enrollment to (mo/yr)

Your signature on this application allows the Program Office to access your Marian University transcript information. For all other transcripts please send official copies to the Program Office.

Declared Major _____

Declared Minor(s) _____

Number of Credits (Accumulated to date) _____

Date you first started college ____/____/_____

Current overall GPA _____

Anticipated Date of Graduation _____

Have you ever been placed on academic probation at Marian University?

Yes___ No___

Do you intend to apply to graduate school?

Yes___ No___

Please mark the space next to the highest degree goal you seek

Masters_____ Professional doctorate (MD, JD, OD, etc.)_____

Academic doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D.)_____ Not sure___ Other_____

Please mark the space that best describes your plans upon graduation from Marian University

_____ Would like to enroll in a master's program

_____ Would like to work and then enroll in a master's program

_____ Would like to enroll in a joint masters/doctoral program

_____ Would like to work and then enroll in a joint masters/doctoral program

_____ Would like to enroll in a professional program (e.g. JD)

Other (please describe) _____

What is your proposed field of graduate study?

Do you have previous research experience?

Yes___ No___ If yes, then please describe briefly the nature of your work and with whom you performed research.

Please describe possible research topics that you would like to investigate during summer internships or research opportunities

Please list one or more Marian University faculty members who can act as mentors for your research project:

III. Family background

Father's Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Highest Degree earned

___ None

___ Baccalaureate

___ Masters

___ Doctorate

___ Professional

Mother's Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Highest Degree earned

___ None

___ Baccalaureate

___ Masters

___ Doctorate

___ Professional

IV. Applicant Eligibility

First-Generation College Status

*“First-generation College student” means that the applicant’s parents or guardians with whom the applicant resided prior to age 18 did not receive a baccalaureate degree (Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, BA or BS, respectively) from a college or university, OR that if either parent attended college outside the US and graduated, the degree would not be considered the equivalent of a BA or BS. Federal guidelines stipulate that if a student regularly resided and received support from only one parent, prior to age 18, the applicant need consider only the educational status of that parent. To qualify for the program as a first generation-low income applicant **both** criteria must be met (see Federal monetary guidelines for low-income status in the table below).*

I certified that I am a first-generation College student. Yes ___ No ___

Low-Income Status

The [federal guidelines for low-income](#) are defined by the table below and are verifiable by the tax return on which the applicant is declared as a dependent. Check the space next to the income range, which best approximates the taxable income you reported in the most recent tax year. If your income exceeds the federal levels for low-income please fill in the amount of your income and number of dependents on the line marked “**other**”.

(Effective January 20, 2011 – Until Further Notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,335	\$20,400	\$18,810
2	\$22,065	\$27,570	\$25,395
3	\$27,795	\$34,740	\$31,980
4	\$33,525	\$41,910	\$38,565
5	\$39,255	\$49,080	\$45,150
6	\$44,985	\$56,250	\$51,735
7	\$50,715	\$63,420	\$58,320
8	\$56,445	\$70,590	\$64,905

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,730 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$7,170 for Alaska; and \$6,585 for Hawaii. Go to this link for more information:

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

For the purposes of documentation you must attach to your application a copy of the appropriate federal income form (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ).

I meet the low-income eligibility requirement Yes ___ No ___

- **(Dependent)** My parents’ annual income for this past fiscal year was \$ _____
- **(Independent)** My annual income for the past fiscal year was \$ _____

Minority Student Status

You may be eligible for the Program as a minority student regardless of income if you are a member of at least one of the following recognized minority groups. Please **check all** that apply.

- Black/African-American
- Latino/Hispanic
- Native American
- Native Alaskan
- Native Hawaiian
- Pacific Islander (Guam and US Territories)

V. Academic and Financial Support

Please check all that apply:

- I receive financial aid directly from Marian University (e.g. President Scholarship)
- I receive financial and academic support from the Working Families Grant
- I receive financial and academic support from Student Support Services (SSS)
- I receive academic support from the Honors Program
- I receive financial and/or academic support from other sources
 - Please specify: _____
- I am not receiving financial aid at the present time
- I have student loans

VI. Communication Preferences

I prefer to receive communication from the McNair Program Office by:

- Marian e-mail address _____
- Alternate e-mail address _____
- Telephone at this number _____
- Mail at this address _____

VII. Program Recruitment

Please check all that apply as to how you learned about the McNair Scholars Program:

- McNair Information session
- Marian faculty or staff member
- Current McNair Scholar
- Scholar's name: _____
- Poster or other display on campus
- McNair Program website
- At a McNair-sponsored event
- Other: _____

Statement of Purpose:

Briefly describe in 750 words or less (1) your career interests, (2) why you want to pursue an academic doctorate, and (3) how graduate school will help you meet your career objectives and help you contribute to your field of choice.

Include in your statement an indication as to why *you* should be selected as a Marian University McNair Scholar. Offer some personal experiences that demonstrate your potential to succeed as a graduate student. Describe how this program will prepare you for graduate school and what you might gain from your participation.

Marian McNair Scholars Program Validation and Information Release Form

I certify that the information cited in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and any misrepresentation may result in denial of admission into the Program or removal from the Program if accepted. I understand that maintenance of participation status is dependent upon the completion of Program requirements and that awards are subject to continuation of Program funding. I pledge that upon acceptance into the Program I will adhere to the policies and conditions set forth in the Program Handbook and by Marian University.

My signature below will allow the Marian McNair Scholars Program to secure copies of information regarding financial aid, grade and progress reports, advising notifications, awards, and other information pertinent to the complete evaluation of my eligibility for this program. This information is subject to confidentiality guidelines set forth in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 known as the Buckley Amendment. Portions of my application and aspects of my participation in this program may be shared with other university personnel in accordance with federal regulations and university policy.

Applicant's signature

Date

Letters of Recommendation

- **This section is a significant element of your application, please obtain 2 letters of recommendation from a faculty member in your discipline, who will accurately describe:**
 - How long they have known you and in what capacity
 - Your academic performance, strengths, weaknesses, work ethic and ability to work with others
 - Eagerness to pursue a graduate degree
 - Ability to succeed as a graduate student
 - Validation of your worthiness for selection as a Marian McNair Scholar
- **You are highly encouraged to speak directly to your prospective recommender about your intentions to apply for the McNair Scholars Program. Provide them with a description of the program so they can adequately assess your potential to succeed**
 - Letters must be on letterhead
 - It is preferred that letters are submitted confidentially. To do so, *seal the letter and have the faculty member hand write his or her signature across the seal of the envelope.*
 - Be sure to comply with the Application checklist before submitting all documents. Failure to follow instructions will delay the review of your application.

For our records, please list the names of the two individuals from whom you are requesting letters.

Recommender Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
Phone number: _____
Recommender Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
Phone number: _____

Submit your completed application to:

Marian University McNair Scholars Program
Box 51
45 S. National Ave.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

To request additional assistance in filling out the application form, please contact us at:

(920) 923-8621
mcnairprogram@marianuniversity.edu

You will receive notification that your application has been received and is complete. You will be notified of your participant status by the preferred means of communication listed in your application form.

Note to the Recommender

Dear Recommender,

The McNair Scholars Program is designed to encourage talented undergraduates from groups often underrepresented in graduate programs to pursue doctoral degrees. The student you are recommending has shown interest in our program, and if accepted, will be responsible for undergraduate research, writing a research manuscript, presenting work at professional conferences, preparing for the GRE and applying to graduate programs.

Please address the following questions in your recommendation letter:

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. Briefly describe your observations of the applicant's commitment to academic life and professional goals.
3. What is your candid appraisal of the applicant's intellectual ability and the quality of previous work?
4. Briefly describe the student's ability to succeed in graduate studies.

Please return the letter of recommendation on letterhead stationary directly to the McNair Scholars Program at the addresses indicated below. If you have to send your letter via e-mail, please do so only on a PDF format.

Marian University McNair Scholars Program

Box 51
45 S. National Ave.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Email: mcnairprogram@marianuniversity.edu