Ronald E. McNair

Ronald E. McNair was born on October 12, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. He received his bachelor's degree magna cum laude in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971. Five years later he earned a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics and received many honorary degrees, fellowships and commendations. However, his achievements were not limited to academia. He was a sixth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished saxophonist. Dr. McNair and his wife, Cheryl Moore, had two children, Reginald and Joy.

In 1978, Dr. McNair was selected for the NASA space program and he was the second African American to fly in space. His life ended tragically on January 28, 1986, when the Challenger space shuttle exploded, taking the life of Dr. McNair and six other astronauts.

The McNair Scholars Program is dedicated to preserving his legacy of scholarship and accomplishments.

How to Apply

Contact:

McNair Scholars Program
2300 Student Community Center
University of California, Davis
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 752-7486
Fax: (530) 752-0613
E-mail: mcnair@ucdavis.edu
Website: mcnair.ucdavis.edu

Visit our office for an application or download it from the website

RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

A TRIO Program Funded by the US Department of Education

UCDAVIS
OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

250 Mrak Hall
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

gradstudies.ucdavis.edu

McNair
Scholars Program

PATHWAY to a Ph.D.

UCDAVIS
OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

is designed to encourage and assist students from groups often underrepresented in graduate programs to pursue doctoral degrees. Each year, a select number of undergraduates are chosen to participate in both academic year and summer activities.

Eligibility

To qualify for the McNair Scholars Program, students must:

- Have completed at least 90 quarter units (60 semester units)
- Have a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA
- Hold U.S. citizenship or permanent U.S. residency
- Come from a low-income family and be the first generation to complete a baccalaureate degree or be a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education (African American, Native American or Chicano/Latino)
- Intend to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation. The McNair Program is not open to students pursuing professional degrees (e.g. veterinary, medical or law degrees)

Students who have transferred from a community college are especially encouraged to apply.

PROGRAM

Benefits

The McNair Scholars Program prepares students for acceptance into quality graduate programs.

- Workshops and seminars help students select a graduate school, go through the graduate school application process, prepare for the GRE, learn about graduate financial aid, improve technical writing skills and hone academic, research and presentation skills.

- Faculty mentors are on hand to help students formulate research interests, develop research skills and prepare for doctoral study.

- Individualized assistance helps students address undergraduate academic needs and enhance student efforts to gain admission into choice graduate programs.

- A summer research internship provides undergraduate experiences that lay the foundation for a successful graduate school experience. Benefits include extensive work with a faculty mentor, a stipend of $2,800, and academic course credit.

- Travel to national symposiums and conferences provides students with opportunities for presenting research to faculty and peers.

STUDENT

Expectations

As a McNair Scholar, you will:

- Participate in all workshops and seminars utilizing individual support services when necessary, maintain a full-time course load during the academic year and sustain a UC Davis GPA of 3.0 or better.

- Develop a portfolio to include a curriculum vitae, personal statement, electronic research presentation and evidence of research and scholarly activity.

- Take the Graduate Record Examination and apply to graduate programs (seniors).