

Who Is Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D?

Dr. Ronald E. McNair (1950–1986) was a NASA astronaut, accomplished musician, and black belt Karate instructor. He grew up in Lake City, South Carolina, working in cotton and tobacco fields to help support his family. Dr. McNair excelled in school, graduating as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967. His high school achievements earned him a state scholarship, and he entered North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University that fall to study physics. As an undergraduate, Dr. McNair was named a Ford Foundation Fellow and a Presidential Scholar. He graduated magna cum laude from the physics program. These honors earned him a scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed his Ph.D. degree. While working at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California, Dr. McNair was invited to apply for the NASA space program. He is the second African-American astronaut to travel in space. His second mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger ended in an explosion that killed all eight astronauts on January 28, 1986. That year, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was established to serve students like Dr. McNair who are committed to high standards of academic and personal achievement.



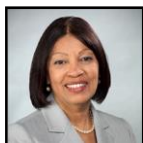
McNair Scholars Program

*Supporting high-potential undergraduates
in pursuit of Ph.D. degrees in STEM
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)*

The McNair Scholars Program is administered by the UConn Center for Academic Programs. For more information and to apply, please visit:

www.cap.uconn.edu/msp

For More Information



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Visit the McNair Scholars Program page on the Center for Academic Programs website: www.cap.uconn.edu/msp

What Is the McNair Scholars Program?

The UConn McNair Scholars Program is designed to prepare talented, highly motivated UConn undergraduate students for Ph.D. study in the STEM fields. Launched in 2013 and funded by a five-year, \$220,000 annual grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the McNair Scholars Program is part of the family of federal TRiO programs that have been supporting first-generation, low-income, underrepresented students for nearly 50 years. The program is named for NASA astronaut Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D. who was killed in an explosion aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger during its launch in 1986. Dr. McNair soared to great professional heights despite obstacles similar to those facing students the program serves today. UConn is one of more than 200 colleges and universities nationwide that foster students' doctoral aspirations through the federal Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky!”

—Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

Who Is Eligible?

The McNair Scholars Program is open to students who are first generation to college and who meet federal TRiO income guidelines, and/or students from populations underrepresented in graduate study.

The Introduction to STEM Research, McNair Fellows

Program: *An experience at the Storrs campus for rising sophomores and rising juniors.*

Open to undergraduates at all UConn campuses, this program is designed to provide students with direct interaction with STEM researchers and their projects, learn about applying to and being a part of the academic year and summer, research-intensive McNair Scholars Program, and about pursuing a Ph.D. degree in a STEM field.

What Will You Do as a McNair Scholar?

McNair Scholars actively take part in the program at the Storrs campus during sophomore or junior as well as senior years. Once admitted to the program, you will:

- Work closely with a faculty mentor to develop a research proposal and begin to conduct research during the academic year.
- Continue research during the summer after junior year on campus under your mentor's guidance. (Your room and board will be paid by the program and you will receive McNair funds you can allocate to your research project.)
- Present at research symposia and contribute to at least one manuscript publication.
- Take classes aimed at helping you get accepted to and thrive in graduate school.
- Accompany your mentor to professional, scientific, and cultural workshops, conferences and events—on campus and throughout the country. (Travel expenses are paid by the program.)
- Attend seminars and workshops on how to research and successfully apply for graduate school.
- Visit potential graduate programs.
- Work, study, and attend meetings and social/cultural events with other McNair Scholars, supporting each other through the rigors of STEM coursework and navigating the process of getting into graduate school.
- Pass along the skills and knowledge you gain from the program by mentoring younger McNair students.

*The first
group of
UConn
McNair
Scholars*

2013

