

## FINDING A FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR

Selecting a McNair faculty research mentor is one of the most important steps you will take as a McNair scholar. This person will mentor you in the research process, provide guidance on your research project and help prepare you to become a successful graduate student. You want to find someone who is an active researcher available and willing to mentor you, as well as someone you feel comfortable with. Faculty are generally willing to mentor enthusiastic and hardworking students!

### Key Steps:

1. Begin by visiting your department's website and becoming familiar with research faculty members are conducting. Pinpoint several faculty that seem interesting to you.
2. You may wish to speak with faculty you already know through your classes or ask for recommendations of other faculty they think might be willing to mentor you.
3. Look up a recent publication and read it prior to approaching the faculty member.
4. It's probably easiest to speak with faculty during their office hours; but keep in mind, you will want to **establish a regular weekly meeting with your mentor that occurs outside of office hours** once you begin working together.
5. When you meet ask about their research and tell them of your interest in grad school.
6. Tell them you are a McNair scholar and **give them a Mentor Fact Sheet and brochure**. Encourage them to contact the McNair office if they have immediate questions. Otherwise, we will follow up and go over program details ASAP.
7. If you think you might want to work with them, ask whether they will be able to help you develop a research proposal over the spring semester and then guide you through the project during the summer. **Your mentor needs to know that your project must fit within the timeframe of the program and be completed by August 1st.**
8. You will likely find prospective mentors are willing to discuss possible research ideas.
9. Once you decide upon a mentor, be sure to let all people you spoke with know of your decision. Faculty will understand if you end up choosing someone else.
10. Finally, **you and your mentor will sign a "Mentoring Partnership Agreement"** in which you both establish parameters and expectations of the relationship and agree to work with one another for the McNair program. This step in the selection process is very important, so make sure to read through the agreement and discuss it with your mentor prior to signing and turning it into the office.