

MENTOR FACT SHEET

The McNair Scholars Program works with low income and first generation college students and underrepresented students to prepare them for attainment of a Ph.D. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, primary program components include a research experience, preparation for the graduate application process and GRE training.

Scholars receive financial support in the form of a federal stipend, living allowance and travel allowance for conference presentations and graduate school visits. During the Summer Research Institute, scholars conduct original research under the guidance of a faculty research mentor.

While it remains up to each scholar and mentor to determine the scope and format of their individual project, the McNair Program strives to maintain the following guidelines:

- McNair mentors should be full-time faculty members at CMU, actively conducting research and publishing in their respective fields
- Mentors must be willing to work with their scholar to develop an independent, original research project that **fits within the program timeframe**
- Scholars begin development of a research project during the spring semester in conjunction with our Research Writing and Communication seminar and guidance from a faculty mentor
- **Scholars spend on average 200 hours over 10 weeks completing a research project due August 1st**
- Faculty mentors help their scholar develop research presentations (oral and poster) and prepare to attend various conferences; mentors attend McNair-sponsored symposia in the spring and fall
- Mentors advise their scholar on applying to graduate school

Prospective faculty mentors should keep the following in mind:

- Once a scholar confirms their selection of a mentor, the McNair Director will provide detailed program information and meet individually with each new mentor to answer any questions and address any concerns
- Mentors periodically submit scholar progress reports throughout the duration of the research experience, as well as keep McNair staff updated on the development of the mentoring relationship

Please see **Research Project Timeline** on reverse side and feel free to contact Lynn Curry with any questions (lynn.curry@cmich.edu).

RESEARCH PROJECT TIMELINE

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important that faculty mentors understand that while research is a central component of the McNair Program, there are additional aspects that are equally critical to the overall McNair experience. While the program strives to accommodate special needs and/or requirements of individual projects, **research projects should be designed to fit within the following timeframe.**

Most McNair scholars receive the opportunity to continue working with their mentors beyond this short window, expanding their project and potentially publishing it.

In addition to conducting research, McNair scholars participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them for graduate school. While scholars are required to spend at least 20 hours/week on research during the summer, **an equal amount of time is required to begin preparing to apply to graduate school.** These activities are not intended to compete with their research, but rather, complement that experience and further prepare scholars to be successful at the doctoral level.

Scholars are expected to devote 20 hours/week on their research projects and 10 hours/week on graduate school prep during the summer

Please note the following important dates and deadlines for the 2026 cohort:

February 2	Mentor participation agreement due
March 20	Scholar progress report due
April 3	Draft proposal due
April 9	PowerPoint presentation due
April 10	Presentation practice session
April 17	Presentation practice session
April 24	McNair Spring Research Symposium
May 1	Final proposal due with mentor approval form
May 13 - 15	Scholar Retreat
May 18 – July 17	SRI begins (scholars begin working 20 hours/week on research)
May 18 – July 17	Scholar grad prep activities run from 9 – 1 p.m. (Tues/Thurs)
Week of May 25	Scholars attend Graduate School Training Camp
June 19	Scholar progress report due
August 1	Final paper due with mentor approval form
September 4	PowerPoint presentation due
September 11	Presentation practice session
September 18	Presentation practice session
September 25	McNair Fall Research Symposium