

# TRIO RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

California State University San Marcos  
Office of Undergraduate Studies

**Application Deadline: The priority deadline has passed. However, applications will still be accepted and considered on a rolling basis.**

## McNair Program Application

The Ronald E. McNair Program is federally funded by the Department of Education (DoED) to prepare low-income, first generation undergraduates and undergraduates from underrepresented groups for entry into graduate programs through involvement in research and scholarly activities. The DoED web page provides more information at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/index.html>.

## Program Benefits

The program offers a challenging and supportive environment that is conducive to learning and personal/academic/professional development. As a McNair Scholar, you will receive:

- Paid summer research training
- Support to attend conferences
- Multicultural events
- Individualized academic and professional advising
- Financial literacy workshops
- Assistance with graduate school admissions
- GRE prep

## Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for acceptance into the CSUSM McNair Program, you must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree program at the California State University San Marcos. In addition, you:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
  - Must be a low-income student who is also a first-generation college student (parent(s) or legal guardian(s) do NOT have a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree)
- OR**
- Must be a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education (e.g., Black/African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Latina/Latino/Hispanic, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander)
  - Must have completed 60 units (or equivalent) by the time of formal entry into the program
  - Must have an expected graduation date of spring 2023 or later
  - Must be a full-time student
  - Must have an overall university GPA of 3.0 or higher
  - Must express **STRONG** desire to attain a graduate degree (e.g., Ph.D., master's degree, etc.)

***If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact CSUSM McNair.***

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## Application Checklist

A complete application packet includes the following items:

- Completed application form
- Personal Statement (see next page)
- Two letters of recommendation (see next page)
- A copy of college transcript from each institution you have attended, including CSUSM (unofficial is fine)
- Verification of income status (Please see example document on website)
- A writing sample of at least two pages that was completed within the last year (e.g., a paper from a course). NO group work.

## Completed Applications

A complete application packet includes the application form, statement of purpose, transcript(s), writing sample, and income tax documents/statement of low-income qualification.

Application materials should be emailed to McNair staff at:

[mcnair@csusm.edu](mailto:mcnair@csusm.edu)

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## Personal Statement

Please write a single essay addressing the following topics and attach it to your application. Please limit your statement to a maximum of two pages, with double spacing, 1-inch margins and using 11 or 12 pt font (Times New Roman or Arial). Your essays should incorporate the following details:

### 1. Personal background

- Please describe your family and educational background.
- Describe any financial, familial, or personal responsibilities that you may have that will require your attention during the next couple of years? (This is in addition to regular academic work.)

### 2. Academic interests

- What research topics, fields or departments do you find most interesting?
- Please describe your research experiences, if any.
- Discuss your academic interests and plans (major(s), minor(s), etc.). Describe what you enjoy and hope to learn from this field.
- What graduate program do you intend to pursue?
- Are you interested in a career in academia (e.g., as a professor at a college or university)? If so, what do you hope to gain from and contribute to academia?

### 3. Community involvement

- What extracurricular activities do you participate in?
- Describe your volunteer activities or ways in which you "give back" to your community.
- In what ways do you see yourself as a role model, or in what ways do you hope to become a role model in the future?

### 4. Impact of the McNair program

- Discuss how the McNair program can help you attain your goals.
- Discuss how you see yourself contributing to the McNair/TRIO community.

## Letters of Recommendation

We require two letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a CSUSM faculty/staff member or a faculty/staff member from another university or college.

1) Email CSUSM McNair ([mcnair@csusm.edu](mailto:mcnair@csusm.edu)) with the name and email of your letter writer(s). In the subject line, write "Reference Submission for (*your name*)".

2) Your letter writers will be contacted via email with instructions for writing/submitting an electronic copy of their recommendation letter.

**Letters of Recommendation Deadline: Contact [rmalfavonbor@csusm.edu](mailto:rmalfavonbor@csusm.edu) for details**

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## Application

(Please type or print clearly. Use black or blue ink only)

### A. Personal Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

CSUSM Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ @cougars.csusm.edu

Other (Preferred) Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CSUSM Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

CSUSM Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Graduation Date (Semester and Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Did you transfer from a community college or another university? Yes No

If "Yes", where and when did you start at the community college?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Are you willing to attend graduate school outside of California?      Yes                      No

Expected field of graduate study: \_\_\_\_\_

List at least 3 prospective graduate schools/programs that you are currently interested in applying to:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to attend graduate school immediately (within several months) after obtaining your undergraduate degree from CSUSM?                      Yes                      No

If “No”, when do you plan on attending (Semester/Quarter and Year)? \_\_\_\_\_

## Ethnicity/Race (Check All Applicable):

- |                         |                                  |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Asian                   | American Indian/Alaskan Native   | Black/African American |
| Latina/Latino/Hispanic  | Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | White                  |
| Other (Please specify): |                                  |                        |
- 

## B. Citizenship Status

Are you a U.S. Citizen?                      Yes                      No

If “No”, are you a permanent resident?                      Yes                      No

*(Permanent residents must provide copy of documentation)*

## C. First Generation Verification

Highest educational level or grade your father and your mother completed:

*(Indicate the best answer for each parent/guardian)*

<b>Father</b>	Unknown	Elementary School (K-8)	High School
	College (less than four years)	College (Bachelor’s degree or higher)	
<b>Mother</b>	Unknown	Elementary School (K-8)	High School
	College (less than four years)	College (Bachelor’s degree or higher)	

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## D. Income Verification

### Student Dependent / Independent Status

- |  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| • Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces? .....  |     |    |
| • Are you married? .....   |     |    |
| • Are you, or prior to age 18, were you a ward of the court or an orphan? .....                                  |     |    |
| • Do you have legal dependents (other than a spouse) who receive ..... more than half of their support from you? |     |    |
- If you checked “**YES**” to one or more of the boxes above, you are **likely** an **Independent Student**. Students that filed independently should provide information for **Section A**.
- If you checked “**No**” to **ALL** of the boxes above, you are **likely** a **Dependent Student**. Students that filed dependently should provide information for **Section B**.

#### Section A. Independent Student:

I) Number of people reported on taxes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### II) Copy of your taxes is required

**Tax document must include:** your actual or estimated **Taxable Income** (Found on IRS Form: 1040 line 43; 1040A line 27; filed tax form (Found on IRS Form: 1040 line 43; 1040A line 27; 1040EZ line 6).

#### III) Indicate only one (This should match what is on the tax form you are submitting):

Below \$19,320  
\$19,321 - \$26,130  
\$26,131 - \$32,940  
\$32,941 - \$39,750  
\$39,751 - \$46,560  
\$46,561 - \$53,370  
\$53,371 - \$60,180  
\$60,181 - \$66,990  
\$66,991 and above

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature (Print Name in Lieu of Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### Section B. Dependent Student:

I) Number of people reported on taxes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### II) Copy of your parent's taxes is required

**Tax document must include:** your actual or estimated **Taxable Income** (Found on IRS Form: 1040 line 43; 1040A line 27; filed tax form (Found on IRS Form: 1040 line 43; 1040A line 27; 1040EZ line 6).

#### III) Indicate only one (This should match what is on the tax form you are submitting):

Below \$19,320  
\$19,321 - \$26,130  
\$26,131 - \$32,940  
\$32,941 - \$39,750  
\$39,751 - \$46,560  
\$46,561 - \$53,370  
\$53,371 - \$60,180  
\$60,181 - \$66,990  
\$66,991 and above

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature (Print Name in Lieu of Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## E. Additional Programming Questions

In which of the following programs have you participated? (Check all that apply):

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

Talent Search

Upward Bound

Upward Bound Math/Science

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

ACE Scholars

Student Support Services (SSS)

College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities (PASO)

Office for Training, Research and Education in the Sciences (OTRES)

If you indicated OTRES, please identify the specific program you are affiliated with:

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Are you enrolled in a student organization or honors society?

Yes

No

If "Yes", Please List Them:

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Are you currently involved in research on campus?

Yes

If "Yes", with who: \_\_\_\_\_

No

If "No", then list at least 3 CSUSM faculty members involved in research you are interested in:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you heard about the McNair Program:

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## F. Release of Information Waiver

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize CSUSM TRIO McNair to gather information concerning my academic progress (standardized test scores, grade point average, earned credits, transcripts, etc.) and financial aid information prior to my participation and throughout my involvement in McNair. I understand that this information is used to assist in the determination of my eligibility for McNair and it will be strictly confidential. I am aware that my eligibility, participation, and financial aid status will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education in accordance with the grant funding regulations. **I certify that the information provided on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.** I also agree to provide documentation upon request to verify the information reported and I authorize the McNair Program to verify eligibility requirements with other departments on campus, such as the Financial Aid. I am aware that the personal information that is provided to the McNair program will be protected under the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974. No one will have access to the information unless they work with or for the McNair Program, or are specifically authorized by CSUSM TRIO McNair to see the information. I also agree to allow my name and/or picture to be used or printed in any materials produced by or related to the CSUSM TRIO McNair program, including publication or display of images in recognition of academic success, leadership, or graduation.

My signature certifies that I am eighteen years old or older and that I have read and understood this release of information waiver.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Name in Lieu of Signature)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)