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 internship opportunity
- Summer research training program
- Support to attend conferences
- Individualized academic advising
- Academic and professional development training
- Financial literacy workshops
- Multicultural events
- Assistance with graduate school admissions
- GRE prep
- Career exploration & coaching

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) has 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 at least one year remaining before graduation (i.e., if you are graduating within the year, you are not eligible for the program)
- 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.
Application Checklist
A complete application packet includes the following items:

- Completed application form
- Personal Statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- A copy of college transcript from each institution you have attended, including CSUSM (unofficial is fine)
- Verification of income status
- A writing sample of at least two pages that was completed within the last year (e.g., a paper from a course)

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 mailed to/dropped off with McNair staff at:
TRIO McNair Scholars Program
Kellogg Library 2123
Cal State University San Marcos
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92069
TRIO RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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) Contact your letter writers, telling them that you will be applying to the McNair program.
2) Email CSUSM McNair (mcnair@csusm.edu) with the name, email, title and department of your letter writer(s). In the subject line, write “Reference Submission for (your name)”.
3) We will send your letter writer an email with instructions for writing/submitting an electronic copy or mailing/dropping off recommendation letters. CSUSM McNair will contact your letter writer by email within 24 hours (M-Th) of receipt of your email, so make sure you provide us with the name(s) and email(s) as soon as you are starting your application.
A. Personal Information

Name:

CSUSM Email Address: @cougars.csusm.edu

Other (Preferred) Email Address:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

CSUSM Student ID: Social Security (SSN):

Gender: Birth Date:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Major: Cumulative GPA: Major GPA:

Current Academic Class Level: □ Freshman □ Sophomore □ Junior □ Senior

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

If Yes, where?

College Start Date: Intended quarter, year of graduation:

Expected field of graduate study:

Intended graduate programs or graduate programs of interest:
TRIO RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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

OR

Do you plan to attend graduate school after a year or more after obtaining your undergraduate degree from CSUSM?  
[ ] Yes  
[ ] No

If yes, how many year(s) after?

Ethnicity/Race (Check All Applicable):

[ ] Black/African American  
[ ] Asian American  
[ ] Latina/Latino/Hispanic

[ ] American Indian/Alaskan Native  
[ ] White/Caucasian  
[ ] Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

[ ] Other (Please specify below):

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)

TRIO McNair is a federally funded program which requires all eligible participants to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid (i.e., U.S. Citizens, legal permanent residents, etc.).

C. First Generation Verification

Highest educational level or grade your father and your mother completed:  
(Indicate the best answer for each parent/guardian)

Father  
[ ] Unknown  
[ ] Elementary School (K-8)  
[ ] High School

[ ] College (less than four years)  
[ ] College (Bachelor’s degree or higher)

Mother  
[ ] Unknown  
[ ] Elementary School (K-8)  
[ ] High School

[ ] College (less than four years)  
[ ] College (Bachelor’s degree or higher)
D. Low Income Verification

**Student Dependent / Independent Status**

- Are you a veteran of the US Armed Forces? ................................................................. Yes  No
- Are you married? .............................................................................................................. Yes  No
- Are you, or prior to age 18, were you a ward of the court or an orphan? .......... Yes  No
- Do you have legal dependents (other than a spouse) who receive ................. Yes  No
  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** and should provide information for **Section A**.

➢ If you checked “**No**” to **ALL** of the boxes above, you are likely a **Dependent Student** and should provide information for **Section B**.

**Section A. Independent Student:**

1) Number of people in your household (including yourself):

__________________________

2) **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).

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

- $18,091 - $24,360
- $24,361 - $30,630
- $30,631 - $36,900
- $36,901 - $43,170
- $43,171 - $49,440
- $49,441 - $55,710
- $55,711 - $61,980
- $61,981 and above

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**Section B. Dependent Student:**

1) Number of people in your household (including yourself):

__________________________

2) **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).

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

- $18,091 - $24,360
- $24,361 - $30,630
- $30,631 - $36,900
- $36,901 - $43,170
- $43,171 - $49,440
- $49,441 - $55,710
- $55,711 - $61,980
- $61,981 and above

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**Student Signature**  
__________________________  
**Date**  
**Parent Signature**  
__________________________  
**Date**
E. Additional Programming Questions

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

- Talent Search
- Upward Bound
- Upward Bound Math/Science
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- ACE
- College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
- Student Support Services (SSS)
- Pathways to Academic Success & Opportunities (PASO)
- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- Office for Training, Research and Education in the Sciences (OTRES)

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

- MARC
- RISE
- LSAMP
- Bridges

Are You Enrolled in a Student Organization or Honors Society?  

- Yes
- No

If Yes, Please List Them:  

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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: ___________________________________________ Date: ____________________________