



**Year 2026**  
**APPLICATION**

**Priority Filing Deadline: April 13, 2026**



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY · FRESNO

5048 N. Jackson Avenue, M/S LS74

Fresno, CA 93740-8022

(559) 278-2946

[www.fresnostate.edu/mcnair](http://www.fresnostate.edu/mcnair)

### Ronald E. McNair Program

#### Program Description

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is an exciting effort designed to encourage low-income individuals who are first-generation college students and/or traditionally underrepresented in graduate education to pursue doctoral study. The McNair program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), proposes to motivate and prepare promising students for graduate study. Named for the Challenger space shuttle crew member, the Ronald E. McNair Program serves as a living memorial to a man who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to be awarded his Ph.D. in Physics and later to realize his dream of becoming an astronaut for NASA.

At California State University, Fresno, the McNair Program is divided into six components:

- One-week Summer Session of Orientation to the McNair Program and to university teaching and technology.
- Fall Semester Seminar Series and Research Institute designed to enhance knowledge about graduate school requirements, to refine research skills, and to prepare for the GRE.
- Spring Semester meetings for McNair Scholars and submissions of research proposals.
- Summer Intensive GRE Review.
- Eight-week paid Summer Research Project for selected students under the guidance of a faculty mentor at CSU, Fresno.

Fall & Spring Semester Follow-up geared toward the completion and filing of graduate school applications.

As a result of participating in the McNair Program, McNair Scholars will gain demonstrable research skills, acquire valuable knowledge about graduate education and how to access it, and increase their chances of applying for and being successful in doctoral study. In addition, McNair Scholars will become familiar with the research environment of a major university and establish a supportive network of scholarly professionals and peers. McNair Scholars will be responsible for the completion of a carefully planned research assignment for which they may be selected to receive a stipend of up to \$2,800 to defray costs of participation in the summer research project. The stipend will be disbursed over the course of the summer project based upon the successful completion of program requirements. Upon completion of the program, McNair Scholars will continue to enjoy access to McNair seminars, lectures, and assistance with the graduate application process. Two hundred dollars is available to offset application process costs for scholars applying to two or more academic doctoral programs.

The Ronald E. McNair Program at California State University, Fresno benefits from the joint-sponsorship of the Division of Graduate Studies and the Division of Student Affairs. The facilities of both offices are made available to McNair Scholars to ensure their continued educational advancement. The McNair Program provides scholars with a comprehensive program of support and preparation for graduate study. All seminars, workshops, program requirements and research opportunities are aimed at preparing undergraduates for doctoral study and the academic profession.



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## Ronald E. McNair Program

2026 Participant Application

Please type or print information

### I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zipcode

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male Female

University ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship (*check one*):  U.S. Citizen  Permanent Resident  Other (*specify*)

Ethnic Heritage (*check all that apply*):

Black or African American  Asian  White

Hispanic or Latino  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  Decline to State

American Indian or Alaska Native (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

More than one race (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you disabled?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe the nature or your disability \_\_\_\_\_



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**II. FAMILY INFORMATION**

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade Completed: (please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College Degree Earned: (check all that apply) ( ) Bachelor's ( ) Master's ( ) Doctorate

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade Completed: (please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College Degree Earned: (check all that apply) ( ) Bachelor's ( ) Master's ( ) Doctorate

Legal Guardian's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade Completed: (please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

College Degree Earned: (check all that apply) ( ) Bachelor's ( ) Master's ( ) Doctorate

**III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

With regard to financial aid, do you consider yourself to be of independent status?

( ) Independent Status (Complete Box A)

( ) Dependent Status (Complete Box B)

Box A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the size of your household, including yourself, and/or spouse, and/or other dependents _____</li> <li>Did you file an income tax return for 2024? ( ) Yes ( ) No</li> </ul> <p>If yes, what was your taxable income? \$ _____ IRS Form 1040—line 15</p> <p><b>Please attach a photocopy of the appropriate Federal income tax return.</b></p>

Box B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the size of your household, including yourself, and/or spouse, and/or other dependents _____</li> <li>Did you file an income tax return for 2024? ( ) Yes ( ) No</li> </ul> <p>If yes, what was your taxable income? \$ _____ IRS Form 1040—line 15</p> <p><b>Please attach a photocopy of the appropriate Federal income tax return.</b></p>

Are you currently eligible to receive financial aid? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please attach the following documents to your application:

1. A copy of your Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) **OR** Student Aid Report (SAR)

**AND**

2. Financial Aid Award Letter



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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

*This Section to be completed by the applicant.*

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Field of Graduate Study \_\_\_\_\_

*(Optional) Waiver: I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. (The alternative selected will not affect consideration of the application for submission.)*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**This section to be completed by the recommender and returned directly to the McNair Program office for priority consideration. (Attach additional page if needed.)**

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Briefly describe your observations of the applicant’s motivation for graduate study and/or commitment to the academic and professional goals of obtaining a Ph.D. or Ed.D. Please rate the applicant on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) on his/her commitment to obtaining an academic doctoral degree: \_\_\_\_\_



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3. What is your candid appraisal of the applicant's intellectual ability, aptitude in research, potential for doctoral study, and the quality of previous work? On a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), please rate the applicant's capability of being accepted to an academic doctoral-degree program based on the applicant's completed work-to-date: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please list the knowledge and achievements you believe this applicant needs to develop to ensure his/her successful admission to an academic doctoral-degree program. Based on the applicant's overall academic achievement, what kind of candidate to a doctoral-degree program would he/she make on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high): \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your prompt consideration.

**By mail:** Ronald E. McNair Program, California State University, Fresno, 5048 N. Jackson, M/S LS74  
Fresno, CA 93740-8022

**By email:** [millicen@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:millicen@mail.fresnostate.edu)

**By campus mail:** Mail Stop LS74



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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

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Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Field of Graduate Study \_\_\_\_\_

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School/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**By mail:** Ronald E. McNair Program, California State University, Fresno, 5048 N. Jackson, M/S LS74  
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Recommender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**By mail:** Ronald E. McNair Program California State University, Fresno, 5048 N. Jackson, M/S LS74  
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### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Statement of Purpose is required of all applicants. Please describe your motivation to pursue a graduate degree and your immediate, short-term, and long-term educational goals. Please discuss why obtaining a graduate degree, specifically a doctoral degree, is essential to your career objectives. Provide your personal insights as to why you should be selected for program participation and how this experience will help you prepare for graduate study at the doctoral level. You should address each of these topics in a statement not to exceed 250 typed words. (*Use reverse side if needed or attach separate pages.*)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE *(continued)*



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### IV. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

List the names of all colleges and universities attended.

School Name	Enrolled From Month	Year	To Month	Year

*Please attach your unofficial California State University, Fresno transcript with this application.*

What is your current academic major and minor, if any? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your cumulative GPA? \_\_\_\_\_

How many units have you completed before the start of the semester? \_\_\_\_\_

How many units are you currently enrolled in this semester? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your expected graduation date? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first-generation college student?  Yes  No

*(The Federal Guidelines define the term "first-generation college student" as an individual both of whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree; or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, an individual whose only such parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree.)*

Do you intend to apply to graduate school?  Yes  No

If yes, when do you anticipate applying to graduate school? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the highest degree objective you seek? (Check only one)  Uncertain  Master's

Academic Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D.)  Professional Doctorate (JD, MD, DVM, etc.)

Other (specify)

What is your proposed field of graduate study? \_\_\_\_\_



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**V. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS**

A minimum of one letter of recommendation from faculty members in an academic department is required of all applicants. Remind each recommender to send the letter directly to the McNair Program office. Email recommendations are acceptable. Please list the names, titles, and phone numbers of those submitting letters of recommendation on your behalf:

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Name	Title	Phone Number
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Name	Title	Phone Number
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Name	Title	Phone Number
------	-------	--------------

Is there a professor in your proposed field of study that you feel would agree to become your mentor for the McNair summer research project? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, please state the professor's name and department. \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not identified a potential faculty mentor in your proposed field of study, please indicate what areas of research interest you, with regard to the McNair summer research project. \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have prior research experience in a university setting, briefly describe what you accomplished and the name of the professor(s) with whom you worked. \_\_\_\_\_

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Please briefly describe how you learned about the McNair Program. \_\_\_\_\_

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I certify that the information provided herein is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that any misrepresentation may be cause for refusing selection. I realize that awards under the McNair Program are subject to receipt by California State University, Fresno of funding from the U. S. Department of Education. I understand that, if selected to receive a fellowship, I will adhere to and satisfy all conditions of the McNair Program. Additionally, I give my permission to use my name and address for purposes that the University deems necessary in achieving the goals of this program.

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Signature	Date
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**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The California State University, Fresno provides equal access to and equal opportunity in its services and employment.  
*PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION, FINANCIAL AID DOCUMENTS, FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN, AND TRANSCRIPT(S) TO THE MCNAIR PROGRAM OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 FOR PRIORITY FILING.*



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### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must either be low-income individuals who are first-generation college students, and/or members of a group traditionally underrepresented in doctorate education—African-American, Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native. (*The Federal Guide lines stipulate that an applicant must only consider the educational status of his/her parents to determine whether or not the applicant qualifies as being a first-generation college student. If an applicant, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided and received support from only one parent, consider the educational status of that parent.*)
- Applicants must have completed 60 academic units (*Units must be completed prior to the beginning of the summer research component*)
- Applicants must be enrolled in a formal degree program at California State University, Fresno on a full-time basis. \* Special emphasis is placed upon STEM disciplines.
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75.
- Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States.
- Applicants must be considering graduate study. (*Students interested in law, dentistry, medicine or veterinary careers are not eligible for this program.*)

For priority consideration, applicants must submit the completed Ronald E. McNair application packet by **Monday, April 13, 2026.**

Selection will be made on a competitive basis from those applicants who best meet the purposes of the program as defined by the USDE. Special attention will be paid to recruitment of STEM students. Applicants who best meet the federally mandated guidelines will then be selected on the basis of having the greatest potential for pursuing doctoral studies and for whom the program will have the greatest impact. Once selected, students must continue to make progress toward their degree program and toward completing McNair goals and regulations.

Priority consideration will be given to students who meet the priority filing deadline. If you file after the priority deadline date, your application will be considered only after those students who met the priority deadline.

### Awards and Benefits

As a McNair Scholar you will...

- Be matched with a faculty mentor whose research interests are related to your own academic interests.
- Participate in a competitive eight-week summer research project under the direction of a faculty mentor from approximately June 1 through August 1 and gain recommendation to receive up to a \$2,800 competitive stipend.
- Write an abstract and paper based on your summer research findings.
- Attend seminars designed to introduce participants to the nature of graduate education and to successful role models who have obtained doctoral degrees.
- Attend research and teaching institutes designed to increase participants' knowledge of the culture of the academy.
- Participate in an intensive GRE review.
- Receive assistance defining, setting, and realizing your educational goals, as well as in applying to graduate programs of your choice.
- Be eligible for a \$200 allowance to offset academic doctoral program application costs.
- Benefit from a supportive network of McNair Scholars, who, like you, are working toward a graduate degree.
- Have the opportunity to attend a professional meeting or conference with your faculty mentor or to visit selected institutions for research purposes with your faculty mentor.
- Benefit from ongoing support from faculty mentors and staff dedicated to ensuring student advancement.



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## 2026 PARTICIPANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_\_\_ Review your Ronald E. McNair Application to be certain that it is completed in full.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit Application along with supporting documents to the Ronald E. McNair Program office by Monday, April 13, 2026 for priority consideration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a photocopy of the appropriate Federal Income Tax return.  
*(NOTE: if you did not file a 2024 tax return and/or do not have a copy of your most recent FAFSA form, please provide other means of income verification.)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a photocopy of your most recent FAFSA or SAR report.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a photocopy of your most recent University Financial Aid Award Letter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attach an unofficial California State University, Fresno transcript and unofficial copies of transcripts from other colleges and universities previously attended, or arrange for transcripts to be sent directly to the McNair office:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date transcript was requested*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date transcript was sent*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver the Recommendation forms to 1 faculty member in an academic department.

*Verify that the recommendation was completed and mailed by the application deadline*

*To Whom?*

*When?*

_____
_____
_____

- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete and proofread.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep this checklist for your information.

**Thank you** for your interest in the Ronald E. McNair Program. We look forward to reviewing your application. Potential McNair Scholars will be asked to interview with members of the selection committee. For further information, please contact Millie Byers by email at [millicen@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:millicen@mail.fresnostate.edu) or by phone at (559) 278-2946