

Program Description

The Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program provides undergraduate students an opportunity to work with a faculty mentor, explore and research in their discipline, while preparing for future graduate school enrollment.

The program is named for Ronald Erwin McNair, one of the first African-American astronauts and is designed to increase the number of low-income, first-generation students, or underrepresented students in doctoral degree programs.

The McNair Scholars Program is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education.



inside left

Program Benefits

- Working with a faculty mentor
- Completing a research project and paper
- Preparing for graduate level studies
- Mentoring high school students
- Receiving a stipend upon completion of internship requirements

Program Highlights

- Individualized research projects
- Training in the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Faculty mentors
- Research seminars
- Graduate school application workshops
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) preparation course
- GRE fee waiver
- Travel opportunities to academic conferences throughout the country
- Individualized academic and career counseling
- Monetary assistance to visit graduate schools
- Assistance in obtaining graduate school scholarships

inside center

Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible to apply if you:

Come from a low-income family and will be the first generation to complete a baccalaureate degree OR are a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education (African American, Native American, or Chicano/Latino)

Have completed at least 90 units by the end of the Spring Quarter when you apply.

Intend to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation. (This program is not open to students pursuing medical, law, or business degrees).

- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- And hold U.S. citizenship or permanent U.S. residency.

Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one.
- Ronald E. McNair

For more information, contact

McNair Scholars program

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inside right

inside flap

back/ mail panel

cover

RONALD E. MCNAIR

The second African American to fly in space, Ronald Ervin McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. In 1971, he received a bachelor's degree in physics, graduating magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro). In 1976, he received his Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition to his academic achievements, he achieved a black belt in karate and was an accomplished saxophonist.

Ronald McNair died on January 28, 1986, in a fiery explosion nine miles above the Atlantic Ocean along with six other crew members aboard the space shuttle Challenger. After this national disaster, the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program was created in honor of McNair to help students succeed and achieve their academic dreams.



*Whether or not you reach your goals in life
depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly
you want them.*

You're eagles!

Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.

- Ronald E. McNair

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Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program



Developing Leaders
Through Graduate Education

CAL POLY POMONA