

# The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a U.S. Department of Education TRiO program designed to prepare eligible program participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds, have demonstrated strong academic potential, and have been selected for the honor of participating in the program. The program works closely with these participants through their undergraduate requirements, encourages their entrance into doctoral programs, and tracks their progress throughout their successful completion of the Ph.D.

## **STEP ONE: DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the McNair Program, you must qualify under Category A OR under Category B (*some applicants may qualify in both categories, but this is not necessary*).

### **CATEGORY A:**

**A1. Are you potentially a first-generation college graduate? (a student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree)**

- Yes                       No

If you answered “yes,” please answer the following question:

**A2. Are you a low-income individual? (Your family’s taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150% of the poverty level amount. Taxable income is typically lower than gross income. See the Federal TRiO Programs income guidelines at: <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ope/trio/federal-trio-programs-current-year-low-income-levels>)**

- Yes                       No

### **CATEGORY B:**

**Are you a member of one of these groups defined by Congress as traditionally underrepresented in graduate education? (American Indian/Native American; Black/African American; Alaskan Native; Hispanic/Latino; Native Hawaiian; Other Pacific Islander: Specify \_\_\_\_\_)**

- Yes                       No

-If you answered **NO** to *one or both* questions in Category A and answered **NO** to the question in Category B, **STOP NOW**; you would not be eligible to participate in this federally funded program, so do not complete an application.

## **OR**

-If you answered **YES** to *both* questions in Category A and/or **YES** to the question in Category B, please respond to the following questions:

1. Are you an enrolled SOU undergraduate Sophomore, Junior or Senior who will not graduate and who will remain an enrolled, degree-seeking undergraduate student at SOU through the end of the calendar year of the cohort you are applying for?

- Yes                       No

2. Have you demonstrated strong academic potential (an overall cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better)?

- Yes                       No

3. Is it true that you have never been enrolled in a doctoral program?

- Yes                       No

4. Do you plan to obtain a Ph.D.?

- Yes                       No

If you **answered “Yes” to all of the questions above (1-4)**, you may be eligible for the McNair Program and should continue to Step Two and **complete the application process**. *If you are uncertain about your eligibility for the McNair Program, please contact the McNair office at [McNair@sou.edu](mailto:McNair@sou.edu) and speak with a staff member before proceeding with the application process.*

## **STEP TWO: APPLICATION**

*Use this checklist to prepare your application packet.*

The SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program will accept completed applications **submitted or postmarked by MAY 27, 2026.** (Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.)

All application packets **MUST include the following required documents and be printed SINGLE SIDED and completed in BLUE or BLACK ink:**

- SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Application Form** completed in blue or black ink, initialed and signed by the applicant.
- Personal Statement Questions.** Please write a well-reasoned response to each question. *The combined total of all five responses should not exceed three pages (12 point font, single-sided, double spaced).*
  1. Why have you chosen your academic discipline and why does it interest you?
  2. Identify the contributions that you hope to make to your chosen field of study and how your contributions will impact the community.
  3. Please discuss your long-term professional plans and career goals and explain how earning a Ph.D. will support them.
  4. What barriers do you foresee to pursuing your career goals? How will you overcome them?
  5. Why do you want to participate in the McNair Program and how do you anticipate using the resources of the McNair Program to meet your educational goals?
- Two (2) Faculty Letter of Recommendation Forms**, with the top section completed and provided by the applicant prior to submitting to the faculty member. Recommendations should be completed by SOU faculty members, or by a faculty member of a college/university you recently transferred from if this is your first term at SOU. Letters are to be emailed to the McNair Program, along with the letter of recommendation form, **BY THE LETTER WRITER** to [McNair@sou.edu](mailto:McNair@sou.edu). (LOR form available to download under application link on <https://mcnair.sou.edu/sou-mcnair-application-process/>)
- Plan to Graduation Form** showing enrollment at least through Fall 2027, signed by the applicant.
- Pre-Program Needs Assessment Form**, signed and dated.
- Unofficial (or official) copies of transcripts** from every college and university you have ever previously attended, including a current unofficial transcript showing your enrollment at SOU this term.
- Your Current Curriculum Vitae (CV).** CV Template for applicants provided here:
- [https://mcnair.sou.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/McNair\\_Application\\_CV\\_template.docx](https://mcnair.sou.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/McNair_Application_CV_template.docx)
- and CV instructions can be found here: [https://mcnair.sou.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Instructions\\_McNair\\_Application\\_CV\\_Template.pdf](https://mcnair.sou.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Instructions_McNair_Application_CV_Template.pdf)

**Program Eligibility and Earnings Certification**, signed and dated. If applicant was a dependent for tax filing purposes (see description of dependent vs. independent on certification form) parent or guardian **MUST** sign and submit the earnings certification. A scanned/printed copy of certification is acceptable for application processing, however if the applicant is accepted into the cohort an original signature must be submitted to the McNair office.

**Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all required documents (aside from letters of recommendation) and submit them in one packet:**

- **Drop-off in office: no later than 3:00 PM on 5/27/2026 at Churchill #222.**
- **By mail: postdated no later than the application deadline (5/27/2026) to: SOU McNair Program, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland OR 97520-5062.\***

**\*Email [mcnair@sou.edu](mailto:mcnair@sou.edu) from your sou.edu account if you have sent your application materials in the mail to let them know, and you will be told when your application was received, and qualified applicants will be invited to interview with the SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Advisory Council.**

# SOU McNAIR 2027 COHORT APPLICATION

(Please print application **SINGLE SIDED** and use **BLUE or BLACK** ink for your responses)

## **I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Middle First

Preferred Name/Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address Apt# City State Zip

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address Apt# City State Zip

SOU/Local Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Hometown & State: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ SOU ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship (check one):  U.S. Citizen  Permanent Resident#: \_\_\_\_\_  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Sex Designation:  Male  Female

Have you ever received a baccalaureate degree?  Yes  No

Have you ever enrolled in a doctoral program?  Yes  No

How do you describe yourself? (Answer ***both*** questions)

**Ethnicity:** Are you Hispanic/Latino?  Yes  No

**Race:**  American Indian or Alaska Native:

Asian

Black or African American

White

Native Hawaiian

Other Pacific Islander (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

List your SOU academic major(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Current cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been enrolled at a community college?  Yes  No

What date did you begin taking college courses? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the SOU McNair Program? \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. FAMILY INFORMATION**

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Middle First

Highest grade father completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's college/university degree(s) completed: (check all degrees completed)

None

Associate

Bachelor

Master

Doctorate

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Middle First

Highest grade mother completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's college/university degree(s) completed: (check all degrees completed)

None

Associate

Bachelor

Master

Doctorate

### **III. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

What is your anticipated graduation date for the bachelor degree from SOU (*check a month and a year*):

Month:  December                      Year:  2027  
 March                                       2028  
 June     2029  
 August                                         2030

Do you intend to apply for graduate school?             Yes                                       No

Do you plan to enter graduate school in the fall term immediately after baccalaureate graduation?             Yes                       No

What is the highest degree objective that you seek? (*check only one box*)

- Master
- Ph.D.
- Ed.D.
- Professional Doctorate (D.P.T.; J.D.; M.D.; Psy.D.; etc.)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **READ AND SIGN THIS STATEMENT**

I understand the eligibility criteria for the McNair Program and affirm that all the information I have supplied is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that if I am selected as a Scholar, I will be required to provide official transcripts and may be required to supply income tax forms for verification of eligibility. I understand that if accepted as a McNair Scholar I will be expected to adhere to the tenets of the McNair Scholar Agreement.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign in ink. Note that electronic signatures cannot be accepted.*



## FACULTY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To be completed by a faculty member from SOU. (If this is your first term at SOU a faculty member from your previous college/university *(who teaches in your academic major discipline area)* may write a letter of recommendation for you).

Individual LOR Forms can be downloaded at: <https://mcnair.sou.edu/sou-mcnair-application-process/>)

<b>This section must be completed by the applicant prior to submission to the recommender.</b>	
Applicant Full Legal Name or Preferred Name:	
Applicant SOU ID#:	
SOU Major(s):	
Proposed Field of Graduate Study:	
Please check one: (the alternative you select will not affect consideration of your application for admission)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(Optional)</i> Waiver: I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not waive my rights to review this letter of recommendation.	
Signature	Date

**To the Recommender:** The McNair Program is designed to prepare student participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. The Program will work closely with these students throughout their undergraduate years, encourage their entrance into graduate programs and track their progress to successful completion of advanced degrees.

**Please note:** If the student has not waived rights (above), the student may request a copy of this form and accompanying letter.

**Please attach to this form a letter about the applicant. In this letter, please address the following:**

- How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
- Evaluate the applicant's:
  - academic aptitude and preparation for graduate work, including oral and written communication;
  - motivation for the pursuit of advanced graduate study and attaining a Ph.D.;
  - recent academic performance in the major or in the minor.
- Comment on the specific areas that this applicant will need to develop in order to be a competitive applicant for graduate school admission.

If the applicant is selected for participation in the SOU McNair Program, and if you are a SOU Faculty Member with a Ph.D., would you be willing to serve as the applicant's McNair Faculty Mentor?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Recommender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School/Department \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return this form and letter to the McNair Program no later than May 27, 2026. You can send them to us by email at: [McNair@sou.edu](mailto:McNair@sou.edu), or provide the documents in a sealed envelope with your signature across the sealed closing to the applicant to include in their application packet.

*Thank you for your timely response.*

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<b>This section must be completed by the applicant prior to submission to the recommender.</b>	
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Applicant SOU ID#:	
SOU Major(s):	
Proposed Field of Graduate Study:	
Please check one: (the alternative you select will not affect consideration of your application for admission)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>(Optional)</i> Waiver: I voluntarily waive all rights to review this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.	
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If the applicant is selected for participation in the SOU McNair Program, and if you are a SOU Faculty Member with a Ph.D., would you be willing to serve as the applicant's McNair Faculty Mentor?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Recommender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School/Department \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return this form and letter to the McNair Program no later than May 27, 2026. You can send them to us by email at: [McNair@sou.edu](mailto:McNair@sou.edu), or provide the documents in a sealed envelope with your signature across the sealed closing to the applicant to include in their application packet.

*Thank you for your timely response.*

## SOU McNair Applicant Plan to Graduation Form 2026-2029

Fall 26			Winter 27			Spring 27			Summer 27		
Dept. & Number	Course	Credit									

Fall 27*			Winter 28			Spring 28			Summer 28		
Dept. & Number	Course	Credit									

Fall 28			Winter 29			Spring 29			Summer 29		
Dept. & Number	Course	Credit									

*\*Please note, enrollment at SOU through at least Fall 2027 is required for eligibility for the 2027 McNair Cohort.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOU MCNAIR PROGRAM APPLICATION PRE-PROGRAM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you are accepted as a McNair Scholar this information will be used to help us determine priorities in providing services to you and to assess how the McNair Program has helped you when you exit the Program.

Please circle the answer which best describes your situation:

HOW WELL DO YOU UNDERSTAND:	NOT AT ALL				VERY WELL
the requirements of the McNair Program?	1	2	3	4	5
what you need to do to complete your baccalaureate degree?	1	2	3	4	5
what you need to do to complete your baccalaureate degree?	1	2	3	4	5
how to finance graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5
how to choose a graduate program?	1	2	3	4	5
how to prepare for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)?	1	2	3	4	5
how to apply to graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5
computer skills required for graduate school?	1	2	3	4	5
how to do library research?	1	2	3	4	5
how to use the Internet for research?	1	2	3	4	5
how to develop a research proposal in your discipline?	1	2	3	4	5
how to write a research paper in your discipline?	1	2	3	4	5
how confident do you feel about making an oral presentation?	1	2	3	4	5

*Please indicate areas in which you think you may need support. You may use the other side of the page for additional space.*