

McNair Application FAQs

Q: What if I am interested in a professional degree (JD, MD, MBA, etc.)?

A: The mission of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the number of Ph.Ds. It is not intended for students who want to go to a professional school like law school, medical school, business school, etc.

Q: Can I apply if I already have a bachelor's degree?

A: No. The program is focused on working with current undergraduate students.

Q: I don't have a 3.0 GPA. Can I still apply?

A: We are unable to admit students with a GPA under 3.0. If you are an eligible sophomore, we encourage you to work on raising your GPA and apply your junior year.

Q: I am a graduating senior. Can I still apply?

A: The program works most effectively with students who are entering their sophomore or junior year. Under special conditions, seniors may apply and be considered depending on their Stanislaus State graduation date. If you are a graduating senior, see the Program Director to assess your viability as an applicant.

Q: I'm a transfer student, can I use a letter of recommendation from a community college professor?

A: Yes. Letters of recommendation are an important part of your application and all efforts should be made to receive letters of recommendation from professors who know you well and can speak to your potential for success in graduate school.

Q: Can I use a letter of recommendation from an employer or organization I volunteered for?

A: Yes. However, at least one letter must be from a faculty member. Faculty (academic) letters of recommendation are best. The recommender should speak to your ability to do research.

Q: Do I need to have a faculty mentor when I apply?

A: No, we can work with you to identify a faculty mentor if you are accepted into the program. If you already secured a faculty mentor, please mention it in your application.

Q: Can I study abroad in the summer and still participate in the McNair Scholars Program?

A: No, you must be available to do research from June through early August.

Q: Will I be allowed to take classes if necessary during the summer?

A: It is recommended that you focus solely on your research during the summer. However, you may petition to take a course during the summer if necessary.

Q: What does the timeline for participation in the McNair Program look like?

A: Generally, in the spring semester, you will work on your research proposal. During the summer, you will conduct your summer research internship. During the fall semester, you will draft your research article and apply for graduate school. The following spring semester, you will publish your work in the Honors Program *Journal of Exploratory Research* and present at the annual Honors Capstone Conference.

Q: What if I am not completely sure about my research topic?

A: Describe it to the best of your ability in the application. Your topic may change once you are admitted into the program.