



2021-2022 MCNAIR SCHOLARS PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Sophomore Year (SOPH ADMITS)	
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA • Identify research interests and gain research experience • Develop an individualized Comprehensive Advising Plan (CAP) • Receive individualized advising from McNair Director every semester • Complete career and academic assessments • Attend Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) workshop • Maintain regular communication with McNair program staff
Fall Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend McNair workshops and events • Research topics of interest for potential research • Identify faculty members who might have similar research interests • Find out more about potential careers you may secure with a Ph.D. • Start identifying summer research opportunities/internships
Spring Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend McNair workshops and events • Begin to narrow down a topic and identify potential faculty mentor • Become familiar with the graduate school timeline and begin organizing searches of schools and professors • Learn to use library resources and reference software • Learn about the IRB process
Summer between sophomore and junior year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a summer research opportunities program and/or summer graduate school preparation boot camp • Familiarize yourself with the requirements for graduate admissions • Prepare for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)

Junior Year	
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA • Conduct summer research project and prepare for presentations • Develop or update individualized Comprehensive Advising Plan (CAP) • Receive individualized advising from McNair Director every semester • Complete career and academic assessments • Strengthen your mentoring relationships • Prepare for and take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) • Maintain regular communication with McNair program staff and faculty mentor
Fall Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend McNair workshops and events • Secure a faculty mentor • Identify recruiting events and research presentation opportunities • Create a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and have a Career Counselor and McNair Director review your materials • Identify national fellowships and scholarships • Attend Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) preparation workshop • Begin studying for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
Spring Semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend McNair workshops and events • Enroll in HONS 3990 – Capstone Research Proposal (1 unit) • Develop a summer research proposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present your research poster at the University Honors Program Annual Capstone Conference • Take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
Summer between junior and senior year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete summer research project • Participate in summer graduate school preparation boot camp • Take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) • Solidify a list of 6-10 graduate programs to apply to • Identify faculty at these institutions that you might want to work with • Draft or update your Statement of Purpose and Curriculum Vitae (CV) • Polish and refine your materials • Verify application and funding deadlines for all programs of interest • Check availability of McNair Scholars application fee waivers

Senior Year	
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA • Attend McNair workshops and events • Update individualized Comprehensive Advising Plan (CAP) • Receive individualized advising from McNair Director every semester • Prepare strong graduate school applications • Apply to at least 6-10 graduate schools • Present research at regional or national conference • Maintain regular communication with McNair program staff and faculty mentor
September-October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in HONS 4200 – Honors Senior Colloquium (1 unit) • Complete summer research data collection and analysis and draft journal article • Ask three professors who know you well for recommendation letters • Fill out online graduate school applications and complete other necessary documents • Obtain copies of your transcripts from all schools you have attended • Continue building relationships with potential graduate school advisors • Apply for need-based financial aid (FAFSA)
November-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application packets well before the deadlines • Forward GRE or other test scores to appropriate schools • Confirm applications have arrived and are complete • Send thank you notes to all references
January-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in HONS 4960 – Honors Presentation Seminar (1 unit) • Continue search for fellowships and scholarships • Contact schools about the possibility of visiting and scheduling an interview • Generate an alternative plan, consider other options (in case of rejections, attendance deferment, or insufficient funding)
April-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit research article for publication in the University Honors Program Journal of Exploratory Research • Present your project at the University Honors Program Annual Capstone Conference • Discuss acceptances, rejections, and other career options with McNair staff • Inform all schools and reference writers of your decision • Attend the McNair Scholars Graduation Reception • Celebrate the end of your journey at Stanislaus State and the beginning of a new one