

McNair Research Scholars Faculty Mentor Commitment Form

You have been invited to serve as a McNair Research Scholar Faculty Mentor for Delta State University by _____.

The McNair Research Scholars program is one of eight national TRiO program designed to provide eligible students with academic services and activities focused on graduate school readiness, on intensive research experiences, and on doctoral studies. Faculty Mentors play a major role in preparing students for the rigors of doctoral study and scholarship. The following responsibilities are designed to clarify Mentors' roles and to encourage total student success.

During the Academic Year

1. SPRING SEMESTER: Assist Scholar with preparing a research proposal prior to beginning the McNair Program's Summer Research Fellowship.
2. SPRING AND FALL SEMESTERS: Meet with Scholar at least one a month during academic year to: ensure that the Scholar is making progress on agreed-upon research, discuss strategies for graduate school, and discuss issues related to obtaining a doctoral degree.
3. YEAR LONG: Assist the Scholar with identifying opportunities and resources to present their research at conferences, other post-secondary schools, etc.

During the Summer (Held during June and July concurrent with Summer School)

1. Provide guidance, assistance, and oversight to Scholar to ensure that a minimum of 25 hours-a-week of research is conducted, even if research cannot be completed during the summer (research may be, and is even encouraged, to be continued throughout the year).
2. Approve, or authorize designee, Scholar's weekly Research Log Report to verify that Scholar is making satisfactory progress on research and working 30 hours weekly.
3. Approve the following benchmarks students must meet:
 - a. Annotated Bibliography
 - b. Literature Review
 - c. Mid Summer Reflection/Evaluation
 - d. Research Paper
 - i. Draft
 - ii. Final Paper
 - iii. Poster/PowerPoint
4. Provide Scholar with feedback in preparation for their presentation of the research at the end of the Summer Research Fellowship.
5. Complete evaluations of Scholar's overall performance at the end of the summer.

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At all times

1. Maintain on-going, consistent communication with each assigned Scholar for the duration of the student's participation and encourage reengagement to those who are not actively participating.
2. Meet with Scholar at least once per month to discuss actions such as Graduate School Admissions research, networking, research check-ins, career planning, etc.
3. Attend at least one (1) McNair Scholar Seminar monthly. Events may include Graduate & Post Baccalaureate School workshops, Career Exploration workshops, Academic Field Trips, New Scholar Orientation, etc.

***Mentors do not have to be in the Scholar's discipline or share similar research interests; the essence of the McNair Research Scholars program is to expose scholars to the systematic process of research in general.*

By signing this Mentor Commitment Form, I make the commitment to support and guide the assigned Scholar(s) toward positive college, research, and career decisions. I will collaborate with the McNair Research Scholar's Project Director, fellow Mentors, and campus constituencies in an effort to aid in the success of the program.

I commit to the responsibilities listed above, and I understand the importance of my role to the program. Should I fail to fulfill my commitments, I understand that my services may be discontinued from the program. I recognize that I will be allotted a grant-funded stipend \$1,000 (plus fringes) at the end of the Summer assignment per assigned scholar that I serve as a Mentor. I also understand that I have the option to withdraw from the program prior to signing this commitment form each academic year. All payments are contingent on continued federal grant funding.

Faculty Mentor Signature

Date

Project Director, McNair Research Scholars

Date