



McNair Research Scholars

Delta State University

Faculty Mentor Commitment Form

Academic Year

You are invited to serve as a McNair Research Scholar Faculty Mentor
for Student Name _____ 900# _____ .

The McNair Research Scholars program is one of eight national TRiO programs designed to provide eligible students with academic services and activities focused on graduate school readiness, intensive research experiences, and 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. FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS: Connect with Scholar at least once during fall/spring semester to ensure that the Scholar is making progress, discuss strategies for graduate school, and discuss issues related to obtaining a doctoral degree.
2. YEAR LONG: Assist the Scholar with identifying opportunities and resources to present research at conferences, other post-secondary schools, etc.

During the Summer (Held during June - August concurrent with Summer School):

1. Provide guidance, assistance, and oversight to Scholar to ensure that a minimum of 240 hours of research or scholarly activity is conducted, even if research cannot be completed during the summer (research may be, and is even encouraged, to be continued throughout the year). Scholar must have an output by the end of the summer.
2. Approve the Scholar's Monthly Research Log Report to verify that Scholar is making satisfactory progress on research and working the required hours.
3. Approve the following benchmarks students must meet:
 - a. Research Statement/Question
 - b. Annotated Bibliography
 - c. Literature Review
 - d. Monthly Research Log Reflection/Evaluation
 - e. Research Paper
 - i. Draft
 - ii. Final Paper
 - iii. Poster/PowerPoint for presentation on campus/off campus conference or symposium
4. Provide Scholar with feedback in preparation for 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.

At all times:

Check in with Scholar to discuss actions such as Graduate School Admissions research, networking, research check-ins, career planning, etc.

**Mentors are not required 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 commit to support and guide the assigned Scholar towards proactive 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 of \$1,250 (plus fringes) upon completion of summer research 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. All payments are contingent on continued federal grant funding.

** By signing this contract, you agree that you are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation with federal assistance or activities.

Faculty Mentor’s Signature

Date

Project Director’s Signature

Date

Executive Director, Student Success Center

Date