

# MCNAIR

*Scholars Program*

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

The TRIO McNair Scholars Program is a graduate school preparation program designed to assist low-income, first generation, and underrepresented college students with developing the skills and motivation necessary to successfully pursue doctoral education. Annually, 25 Bemidji State Students participate in the McNair Scholars Program. (The federal government defines “underrepresented” to include Black (non-Hispanic); Hispanic; and American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders).

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION

Mail to:

Kristina Cirks

TRIO McNair Associate Director

Bemidji State University

Box 22

Birchmont Dr. NE

Bemidji MN 56601

Hand Deliver to

Kristina Cirks

Decker Hall 243

**APPLY NOW!**

McNair Scholars is a TRIO program funded by the United State Department of Education and sponsored by Bemidji State University. The McNair Scholars Program and BSU are committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or sexual orientation.



## Application

### Bemidji State University McNair Scholars Program

You can use this checklist to help you organize your application materials. Once complete applications are received, applications will be reviewed and scored by McNair faculty and staff.

**Please make sure you have completed the following before submitting the application:**

- Completed Section A through D
- In Section D: Reported your taxable income- not total income.
- Attach a two-page, double space, 12 pt. font essay (Section E)
- Delivered Recommendation Forms to two recommenders (Section H)
- Signed and dated the application (Section I)
- Sent all materials on or before the deadline

**Mail to:**

Kristina Cirks  
TRIO McNair Associate Director  
Bemidji State University  
Box 22  
1500 Birchmont Dr. NE  
Bemidji MN 56601

Or

**Hand Deliver to:**

Kristina Cirks  
TRIO McNair Associate Director  
Bemidji State University  
Decker Hall 243

Thank you for your interest in the Trio McNair Scholars Program at BSU. We look forward to reviewing your application. Applicants will be contacted for an interview. If you have any questions, please contact the TRIO McNair Scholars Office and we will be happy to assist you.

## **Goals:**

- To generate higher-level academic and research skills necessary for success in graduate school.
- To increase the rate of doctoral program completion and participation in the professoriate by first-generation, low-income college students and students who are underrepresented in specific graduate programs. (The federal government defines "underrepresented" to include: Black (non-Hispanic); Hispanic; and American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.)

## **Services:**

### **Juniors**

- 3 credit Research course
- Graduate school visits and program exploration
- GRE fee-reduction waiver and test registration
- 8-10 week summer research experience with a college faculty mentor whose research interests coincide with those of the McNair Scholar
- 3 credit Conference Presentation course

### **Seniors**

- Seminars and workshops focused on GRE preparation, selection and application to graduate school
- Personal statement and CV development
- Assistance with financial aid, scholarship and fellowship applications (With successful participation in the McNair Scholars Program, students become eligible for graduate school application fee waivers and graduate school fellowships at some institutions.)

## **Potential Student Participants:**

- Annually, 25 undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate studies and careers as college faculty participate in the BSU's McNair Scholars Program.
- Two-thirds of the participants meet federal income guidelines and are from a family in which neither parent graduated from a four-year postsecondary educational institution
- One third of the participants may be from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate studies and the professoriate
- Preferred applicants are independent and motivated undergraduates with good writing skills and a cumulative GPA of at 3.0 GPA in their major who possess intellectual curiosity and are interested in conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor

## A. Applicant Information

1. Full/Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

2. Local Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

3. Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

5. E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

6. Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

7. Gender  Female  Male

8. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Date Year

9. Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

10. Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

11. Citizenship  U.S. Citizen  U.S. Permanent Resident  Other  
(If permanent resident, please provide photocopy of INS documentation)

12. Racial/Ethnic Background (check all that apply)

- African American  Native American/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian  
 Caucasian  Asian American  Hispanic/Chicano-Latino  
 Pacific Islander  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Education

1. Student Start Date at Bemidji State University \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Year
2. Projected College Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Year
3. Current Major(s) or Area(s) of Concentration \_\_\_\_\_
4. Current College GPA \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your desired graduate school program?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When do you plan to begin graduate school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. If applicable please identify a professor who is working on a research project you would be interested in working: \_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Name Department
8. Who encouraged you to apply to the McNair Scholars Program? \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Family Background

1. Educational Attainment of Mother (Circle one)  
Highest Grade Level 8 9 10 11 12
2. College Degree Mother Earned if Any  
 Some College  Certificate  Associate  Bachelor's  Master's  Doctorate
3. Educational Attainment of Father (Circle one)  
Highest Grade Level 8 9 10 11 12
4. College Degree Father Earned if Any  
 Some College  Certificate  Associate  Bachelor's  Master's  Doctorate

## D. Income Verification

**Choose Method A or Method B** (*Dependent students need to use their parent's income amounts.*)

**Method A:** Please indicate family/household **taxable\*** income for 2018 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of dependents claimed on your 2018 Income Tax Form (including yourself): \_\_\_\_\_

**Method B:** Using the chart below, indicate whether your family meets TRIO income guidelines.

- Our family income is at or below the levels indicated for our family size.
- Our family income exceeds the levels indicated for our family size.

<i>Federal TRIO Programs 2019 Annual Low Income Levels (Effective January 11, 2019 Until Further Notice) Taxable Income* Levels (Taxable Income is your income after deductions, NOT your gross income.)</i>	
<i>Size of Family Unity</i>	<i>48 Contiguous State, DC and Outlying Jurisdictions</i>
<b>1</b>	\$18,735
<b>2</b>	\$25,365
<b>3</b>	\$31,995
<b>4</b>	\$38,625
<b>5</b>	\$45,255
<b>6</b>	\$51,885
<b>7</b>	\$58,515
<b>8</b>	\$65,145
<i>For family units with more than 8 members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,630.</i>	

*\*Taxable income is listed on line 6 of form 1040EZ, line 27 of form 1040A, and line 43 of form 1040.*

## E. Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions. Use a separate document, double-spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins. This essay will be read by McNair Scholars personnel and professors in your field. Your essay should include:

1. Please consider your academic and career goals when answering this question. Why do you wish to pursue a doctoral program of study as opposed to stopping after a bachelor's or master's degree? (250-300 words)
2. Please describe your favorite fictional character. Convince us to like it too, but be concise. (50 words)
3. What obstacle(s) do you feel could prevent you from achieving your academic and career goals? (250-300 words)
4. Within your discipline of interest, what are you most passionate about? (250-300 words)

## H. Recommendations

Two recommendation forms of which should be from faculty in your major field of study. Please list the following information for each of your recommenders:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Applicant's Signature

My signature below indicates that:

- BSU McNair Scholars program my share my personal statement, academic records, test scores and income and other information with faculty, staff, graduate school personnel, fellowship committees and McNair funds in order to make the best possible match of my research interest and future graduate school admission and enrollment.
- BSU McNair Scholars Program has my permission to access information such as transcripts, enrollment information, graduation information, etc. while I am in the program and for the purpose of follow-up and tracking purposes after my participation in the program.
- To the best of my knowledge, the information given on this application is true, complete, and accurate.

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

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

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# RECOMMENDATION FORM

Bemidji State University TRIO McNair Scholars Program

*This section is to be completed by the applicant. Please print or type.*

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

*Last*
*First*
*Middle*
*(Intended) Major/Interest*

*Optional: All rights of access to this letter of recommendation conferred by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L.93-380) as amended, or otherwise, are hereby voluntarily waived. This waiver is **not required** as a condition for admission to or receipt of any other services and benefits from the McNair Scholars Program.*

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

*This section is to be completed by the recommender and sent to:*

Kristina Cirks  
 TRIO McNair Associate Director  
 Bemidji State University  
 1500 Birchmont Dr. NE # 22  
 Bemidji MN 56601  
 To deliver in person, please bring to the Decker 243

- **Please attach a short personal letter addressing the following questions and return with this form.**
- **What is the extent of your acquaintance with the applicant?**
- **What is your frank appraisal of the applicant's promise as a graduate student and future scholar?**
- **What are the applicant's greatest strengths and weaknesses?**
- **Please indicate whether you will be conducting research during the summer and are willing to mentor this scholar or another McNair candidate.**

In comparison with a representative group of students in the same field with approximately the same amount of experience and training, how does the applicant rate in the following areas?

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Outstanding	Unable to Judge
<b>Academic Aptitude and Potential for Graduate Work</b>					
<b>Academic Performance in Major</b>					
<b>Motivation for Advanced Graduate Study</b>					

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_