



“The Doctor”

McNair Scholars Program

Now Accepting Applications

The McNair Scholars Program is looking for new participants for the 2015 - 2016 academic year. The Program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing doctoral studies. Support and services for graduate school planning include, graduate school exploration, research opportunities, faculty mentoring, writing assistance, and GRE preparation.

The application period is open until Friday, April 20. To be eligible for the Program, students must meet the following criteria:

- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency
- Full-time enrollment at WSU (between 40 - 90 cum. hrs.)
- Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours
- Be either first generation and low income or a member of a traditionally underrepresented group in graduate education (e.g., African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian).

NSF EPSCoR Summer Research Opportunity

Applications are also being accepted for the Kansas NSF EPSCoR Summer Research Program. This is an 8-week program, beginning June 1st. The WSU program is recruiting two students to conduct research with a Wichita State faculty mentor, participate in a preparation course for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and a research seminar series.

Applications are due April 30.

To apply to be a McNair Scholar or to participate in NSF EPSCoR:

Stop by the McNair Office, located in Grace Wilkie Annex, room 173 to pick up an application, or visit our website at wichita.edu/mcnair. Faculty and staff may also contact the office to nominate potential candidates.

Now Accepting Applications!

Oklahoma State Scholar Conference



Rosa Palacio, Lydia Ibarra, Joy Foster, and Logan Gisick

Four McNair Scholars attended the Scholar Conference hosted at Oklahoma State University on February 19th, 2015. Rosa Palacio, Lydia Ibarra, Joy Foster and Logan Gisick attended sessions about successful graduate school applications and met with faculty members from their area of interest. Each student also had the opportunity to present their own research during the conference.

National TRIO Day

On February 12, 2015, the Wichita State University Office of Special Programs held its annual TRIO Day Celebration.



The keynote speaker was Virdena Gilkey, executive assistant to the mayor.

COE President Emeritus Arnold Mitchem, Ph.D. sent remarks on video reminding the audience of the struggles of TRIO and its longevity.

Each special program at Wichita State recognized one student during the celebration as a student achiever. Lydia Ibarra was recognized by McNair.

Grammatically Speaking: *Steps to Revising Your Paper*

Revision is not simply busywork, and while most people tend to think of revision as looking specifically for grammar and punctuation errors, true revision involves more than that. No one, even a professional writer, writes a perfect draft on the first attempt. Use the revision process to determine if you need to add more information to support your main point, eliminate irrelevant information and clarify sections or sentences.

Complete your draft a day or two before you begin the revision process. This will allow you to approach it with a fresh mind and fresh eyes.

Use the following questions to evaluate your draft.

Find your main point.

What are you trying to say in the paper? In other words, try to summarize your thesis, or main point, and the evidence you are using to support that point. Try to imagine that this paper belongs to someone else. Does the paper have a clear thesis? Do you know what the paper is going to be about?

Identify your readers and your purpose.

What are you trying to do in the paper? In other words, are you trying to argue with the reading, to analyze the reading, to evaluate the reading, to apply the reading to another situation, or to accomplish another goal?

Evaluate your evidence.

Does the body of your paper support your thesis? Do you offer enough evidence to support your claim? If you are using quotations from the text as evidence, did you cite them properly?

Save only the good pieces.

Do all of the ideas relate back to the thesis? Is there anything that doesn't seem to fit? If so, you either need to change your thesis to reflect the idea or cut the idea.

Tighten and clean up your language.

Do all of the ideas in the paper make sense? Are there unclear or confusing ideas or sentences? Read your paper out loud and listen for awkward pauses and unclear ideas. Cut out extra words, vagueness, and misused words.

Eliminate mistakes in grammar and usage.

Do you see any problems with grammar, punctuation, or spelling? If you think something is wrong, you should make a note of it, even if you don't know how to fix it. You can always talk the McNair Writing Tutor Noah Trammell about how to correct errors.

Sources: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/561/05/>, <http://www.aims.edu/student/online-writing-lab/process/revision>

Managing Graduate School Debt

On Friday, March 27, 2015, Gretchen Holthaus, financial literacy project coordinator for the Office of Student Money Management (OSMM), presented information about managing debt while in graduate school. Holthaus reviewed the several types of debt and how interest rates affect the total costs students will repay. Student loans and mortgages are relatively low interest debts. However, credit cards, lease to own contracts, and payday loans can cost students substantially more in the long run.

Holthaus recommended that students research what their job prospects might be and to use that as a guideline for how much debt they can comfortably pay back. As a general rule, students should borrow no more in total student loan debt than the average yearly salary they expect after graduation.

Finally, Holthaus encouraged students to complete a budget and planning worksheet, which she provided. OSMM provides services to prospective, current, and previous Wichita State students. Financial coaches are available to help students identify and track their expenses, create a financial plan, and create a repayment plan for student loans and personal debt. OSMM coaches will also work with students individually to identify financial resources such as scholarships or fellowships that they may be eligible for.



Contact OSMM:

115 Neff Hall

316-978-3254

OSMM@wichita.edu

www.wichita.edu/osmm

McNair Student Achievements

McNair students are active on campus and in the Wichita community. Featured below are two notable student achievements this semester.



Logan Gisick will present his research, “Medication Vial Search: Effects of Guiding Attributes,” at the Southwestern Psychological Association’s (SWPA) annual convention on April 10th.



Alissa Bey will present her research on sex shame and religiosity at the Midwest Sociological Conference in Kansas City on March 28th. She will also present at the Wichita State University’s Gender and Sexuality Conference on April 3rd.

Working With Your Mentor: Student Perspective

by Kevontrez Jones

I have been able to establish a good relationship with my mentor over time. In the beginning, I was afraid to talk to him, but after regular interaction, that faded away. My mentor stresses the importance of the independent aspect of the research. He generally only intervenes when it is necessary and I really like that. Because my work is so independent, I feel I am able to learn more and understand the key concepts better.

Often times we get results in the lab that seem ‘groundbreaking’, but may be the product of bad sample preparation or bad testing parameters. It is important to ask, “does this make sense?” and use logic when interpreting results. I don’t show results to my mentor unless I am certain they are correct or if I can’t discover why I am getting faulty data. Regardless of my results, I’ve learned that it’s very important to always keep my mentor up-to-date on my progress.

Events to Come

MARCH

- 4 Clinton Hall, Rm. 210
Grad Prep (Wednesday, 3 - 4 p.m.)
Career Services, “*Resume Building*”
- 6 Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
McNair Staff, “*The Back-up Plan*”
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
McNair Staff, “*Parts of a Manuscript*”
- 7 Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
LaWanda Holt-Fields “*McNair Alumni Panel*”
- 27 Devlin Hall, Rm. 103
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Gretchen Holthaus, “*Managing Debt in Grad School*”

APRIL

- 3 Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
McWrite (2 - 3 p.m.)
McNair Staff, “*Writing in Review*”
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
McNair Staff, “*Research Concerns*”
- 11 Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
Dr. Robert Weems “*What It Took to Get My Doctorate*”

MAY

- 24 Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
Grad Prep (2 - 3 p.m.)
Connie Dietz, “*Portraying a Professional Image*”
- 8 **Wichita State Study Day**
- 9 - 15 **Final Exams**
- 15 - 16 **Spring Commencement**

Happy Birthday! *to those celebrating during the months of March, April and May:*

- Khoi Lam** • March 13
- Logan Gisick** • April 7
- Kenni Fitzpatrick** • May 18
- Kevontrez Jones** • May 20



Someone Like Me: McNair Alumni Panel



Meladee Garst,
Staff Psychologist,
Counseling and Testing Center,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2005 - 2007



Francis Nguyen,
Graduate Teaching Assistant,
Mathematics and Statistics,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2010 - 2012



Philip Pettis,
Research Assistant, Center for
Community Support and Research,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2006 - 2009

On March 7, Meladee Garst, Francis Nguyen and Philip Pettis, McNair alumni, led the annual McNair Alumni Panel. During this activity, they shared their stories and answered questions about higher education for current McNair Scholars who are preparing to begin their graduate education.

The McNair alumni dispensed advice on how to submit a successful graduate school application. All three stressed the advantages of conducting research. Students may also consider participating in more than one research project with different mentors in order to gain experience in a variety of approaches to problem solving and also build rapport with additional instructors who can write them supportive reference letters.

The alumni advised students to read many articles with focus and persistence, giving close attention to the recommendations and further results sections: it's in those sections that McNair Scholars' own research projects begin. Garst

told students that her own research project for McNair was a continuation of her mentor's research.

When alumni mentioned their participation in McNair during the application process, college representatives would lean forward and say "Oh really? Tell me more."

In addition to research advice, the McNair alumni encouraged students to keep their heads up. All three agreed that a low GPA or GRE score should not discourage students from applying to the graduate programs they are interested in. While those numbers are important, a set of stellar reference letters or meticulous research can make up for lower-than-expected academic performance.

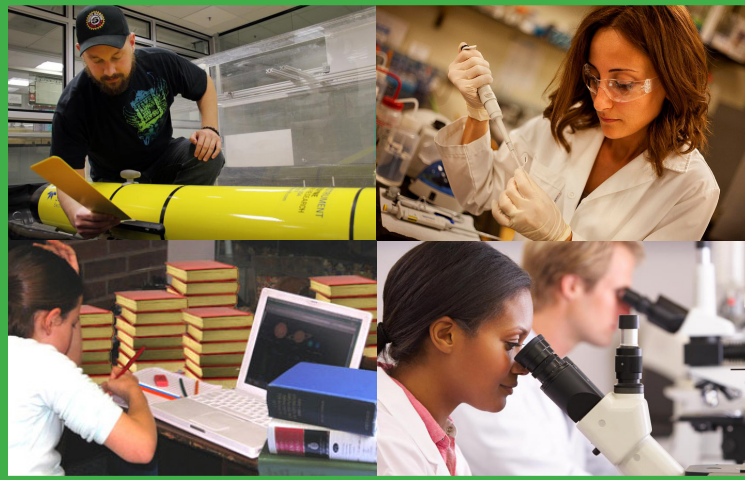
Pettis recommended that students email professors in prospective graduate schools to seek advice on research and their fields of interest, and also advised students to look for opportunities to network with them at conferences.

All three McNair alumni emphasized McNair's positive influence on the admissions process. When alumni mentioned their participation in McNair, college representatives would lean forward and say "Oh really? Tell me more."



Francis Nguyen, Meladee Garst, and Philip Pettis (not pictured) offered current McNair students advice during the McNair Alumni Panel meeting.

Grad-Connect: Life as a Research Assistant



An assistantship is a form of funding in which a student works as an “assistant” in exchange for partial or full tuition and/or a stipend.

Students who are awarded research assistantships become research assistants and are assigned to work in a faculty member’s lab. The supervising faculty member may or may not be the student’s main advisor.

Duties of research assistants vary by discipline and lab but include all tasks needed to pursue research in a given area, such as:

- data collection, entry, and analysis
- reviewing the literature and other library work
- writing reports
- copying, filing, and collating
- organizing and/or cleaning the lab or office

Some students may find some of these items menial but these are the tasks that are required to run a lab and conduct research. Most research assistants do a little bit of everything. Research assistants have a great deal of responsibility. They are trusted with faculty members’ research -- and research is critical to academic careers. The benefits of a research assistantship lie beyond tuition remission or other monetary compensation. As a research assistant you will learn how to conduct research first hand. Your research experiences as a research assistant can be good preparation for your first major solo research project: Your dissertation.

Source: <http://gradschool.about.com/od/survivinggraduateschool/g/Research-Assistantship.htm>

McNair Events



Joy completes some last minute preparation before she presents at the Oklahoma State Scholar Conference.



Nick served as a model at the Career Services event “Dine, Dress, and Interview.”

Students learned about table etiquette and job interview tips like what to wear to the interview.



McNair Director LaWanda Holt-Fields was recognized at the 7th Annual Phenomenal Women Award Ceremony along with Shirley Lefever-Davis and former McNair participant Sein Lengeju.



Maria poses with Talent Search Director Larry Ramos during the 2015 TRIO Day Celebration.

Maria is an alum of Talent Search, Upward Bound Math Science, and Student Support Services.



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
TRIO PROGRAMS
McNair Scholars Program

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TRIO Day Fact

According to the 1986 Congressional resolution, National TRIO Day is meant to focus the nation’s “attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

1. It is the stated policy of Wichita State University to prohibit discrimination in employment and in educational programs and activities because of race, color, religion, gender, age, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disabled/Vietnam-era veteran status, or physical or mental disability.
 2. In working to achieve and maintain a welcoming and discrimination free environment, it is necessary and appropriate that employees and students be encouraged to make complaints and concerns about perceived discriminatory behaviors known to University supervisors and officials.
 3. Any University employee or student who engages in retaliatory conduct against a University employee or student who has filed a complaint alleging discrimination or otherwise exercised their rights and privileges against illegal discrimination will be subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to established University procedures, up to and including termination of employment or student status.
 4. This prohibition against retaliatory conduct applies regardless of the merits of the initial complaint of illegal discrimination.
- The Vice President and General Counsel and the Office of Human Resources shall have primary responsibility for publication, dissemination and implementation of this University policy.

McNair Facts Did You Know?

While at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. McNair performed some of the earliest development of chemical HF/DF and high-pressure CO lasers.



His later experiments and theoretical analysis on the interaction of intense CO₂ laser radiation with molecular gases provided new understandings and applications for highly excited polyatomic molecules.

