



“The Doctor” McNair Scholars Program

19th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference



On September 21, 2017, five McNair scholars attended the 21st Annual McNair Heartland Research Symposium at the Country Club Plaza Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, MO.

The conference gave students an opportunity to present their research to McNair students from across the country and learn about research being conducted by their peers.

Also included was a graduate school fair, allowing students to interact with admissions representatives from various colleges and universities.

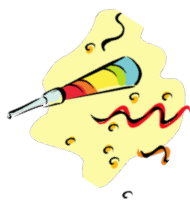
Birthdays

Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the months of December, January and February:

Abel Velasquez • 12/7

Neshia Greene • 1/23

Marliz Valles • 2/16



Selecting a Graduate Program

The Graduate School Selection Worksheet, and Admissions Timeline and Checklist located in the WSU McNair Blackboard Organization can help scholars stay organized as they begin to search for graduate programs and meet with the program counselor to discuss graduate school plans.

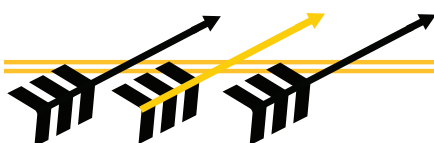
Take note of the following as you start the selection process:

- Academic Programs Offered
- Size of the Program
- Application Deadlines
- Admissions Requirements (GPA, entrance exams, prerequisite courses, etc.)
- Admissions Process (personal statement/essays, # of recommendation letters, etc.)
- Assistantships/Fellowships
- Admissions Fees (are those fees waived for McNair Scholars?)

As you narrow your list of programs, consider the following (this information will also help you prepare your personal statement)

- Does the program focus on areas you are interested in researching?
- Identify 1-3 faculty members who you are interested in (shared research interests)
- Are there other aspects of the program that interest you (industry/internship opportunities, unique characteristics of the program that align with your interests)?

Use these considerations to narrow your list to programs that you would be very interested in attending if accepted.



Grammatically Speaking: *Nominalization*

Nominalization is a noun phrase generated from another word class, usually a verb. In other words, the process of nominalization turns verbs into nouns.

Nominalization is a useful skill to have in academic writing because it conveys an objective, impersonal tone. However, although nominalization is essential in academic writing, it can hamper clarity. Thus, maintaining a balance between the two is crucial.

Using nominalization

Sometimes, nominalizations can be useful such as:

1. When the nominalization is familiar to your reader as a character (happiness), it can be treated as a character.

Example: *Happiness* has many causes and effects.

2. When you are making a general statement that focuses more on the idea than the actual actors in the sentence.

Example: The *distribution* of the pizzas was fair.

Verbs Before Nouns (Concise writing)

Avoiding nominalization can aid in more concise writing.

Examples:

- We should *take into consideration* several factors. [7 words]
- He must *make a decision* about what to do. [9 words]
- They *gave* us *information* about the research program. [9 words]

Grammatically, these examples are correct, but, they're less powerful with nominalized verbs. Instead of using strong verbs, the examples use weaker noun versions of those verbs.

Above, nominalizations are highlighted in red. Deleting the prepositions and articles reduces the phrases to one word. As you can see, when you're trying to stay within a specific word count, eliminating these grammar constructions helps tremendously.

- We should *consider* several factors. [5 words]
- He must *decide* about what to do. [7 words]
- They *informed* us about the research program. [8 words]

Avoiding Passive Voice

Another issue with nominalization is that it often creates passive voice constructions.

✗ The *analysis* of how X-factor impacts B gene expression *was conducted*. [11 words]

✓ We *analyzed* X-factor's impact on B gene expression. [9 words]

By shifting the nominalization to a verb, we establish an active voice and remove prepositions.

When should you revise nominalizations?

Below is a list of the most common cases in which you should revise nominalized phrases.

1. Meaningless verb + nominalization: Delete the meaningless one and convert the nominalization into the main verb.

✗ Joe will *conduct research* on the impact of the recent drought on local wildlife.

✓ Joe will *research* the recent drought's impact on local wildlife.

2. When the nominalization is the subject of a passive voice structure: Identify the true subject, and convert nominalization to a verb for that subject.

✗ The *approval of the plan* *was given* by the committee yesterday.

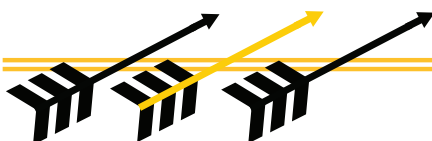
✓ The committee *approved* the plan yesterday.

3. Back-to-back nominalizations: Make the first a verb, and keep the second or change the second to a question-word phrase.

✗ First was their *introduction* of their *analysis* of dreams by the trauma patients.

✓ First, they *introduced how* they analyzed the trauma patients' dreams.

Sources: <https://wordvice.com/improve-writing-edit-nominalizations/>; [https://www.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/Files/Nominalization/Nom LOC.html](https://www.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/Files/Nominalization/Nom%20LOC.html); https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/english_as_a_second_language/esl_students/nominalizations_and_subject_position.html



Spring Faculty-Led Seminars

The following speakers have agreed to volunteer their time and share their expertise during the spring 2019's faculty-led seminars.



Michelle Redmond, PhD, Research Assistant Professor for the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas will discuss "Writing for Publication" on **Saturday, February 23rd**. Topics include: journal selection and the submission process, impact factor, and parts of a manuscript.

McNair Alumni:

McNair Alumni who have completed graduate education or who are working towards that goal will answer questions and share their experiences and advice on **Saturday, March 23rd**. Topics include: graduate applications and maintaining work-life balance.



Alicia Thompson, EdD, superintendent of schools for Wichita Public Schools will offer insight into what it takes to achieve a doctoral degree by sharing about her experiences on **Saturday, April 13th**. Topics may include developing mentor relationships, maintaining focus, and deciding on a career path.

Events to Come

FEBRUARY

- 1 McNair Resource Room
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
Jeffrey Jarman, "Critical Thinking Skills"
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "Data Collection/Methodology"
- 8 McNair Resource Room
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "The Back-up Plan"
- 23 McNair Resource Room
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
Michelle Redmond, "Writing for Publication"

MARCH

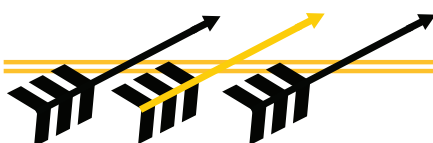
- 1 McNair Resource Room
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "Managing Debt"
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "Parts of a Manuscript"
- 23 McNair Resource Room
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
LaWanda Holt-Fields, "Alumni Panel"

APRIL

- 5 McNair Resource Room
McWrite (2 - 3 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "Writing in Review"
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, "Research Concerns"
- 13 McNair Resource Room
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
Alicia Thompson, "What it Took to Get My Doctorate"
- 19 McNair Resource Room
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
Jill Pletcher, "Portraying a Professional Image"

Research Deadlines

January 31	Literature Review
February 15	Methodology Outline/Draft
February 22	IRB Submission
April 5	Research Progress Report
May 24	Literature Review



Someone Like Me: Ifeoma Ajunwa, J.D., Ph.D.



Ifeoma Ajunwa, J.D., Ph.D.

A 2018 recipient of the Derrick A. Bell Award from the Association of American Law Schools, Dr. Ajunwa is an Assistant Professor of Labor and Employment Law in the Law, Labor Relations, and History Department of Cornell University's Industrial and Labor Relations School (ILR), and Associated Faculty Member at Cornell Law School. She is also a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard Law School and an Affiliate of the Center for the Study of Inequality at Cornell University. Dr. Ajunwa's research interests are at the intersection of law and technology with a particular focus on the ethical governance of workplace technologies. Her research focus is also on diversity and inclusion in the labor market and the workplace.

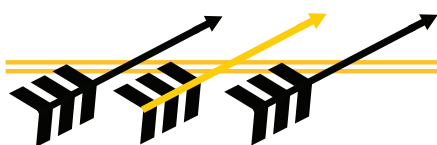
Dr. Ajunwa earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at Columbia University in the City of New York (emphasis on Organizational Theory and Law and Society). Her doctoral research on reentry received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and honorable mention from the Ford Foundation. Prior to graduate school, she also earned a law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law and Dr. Ajunwa has been admitted to the Bar in the states of New York and California.

Dr. Ajunwa's scholarly articles have been published or are forthcoming in both top law review and peer review publications including the Fordham Law Review, California Law Review, Northwestern Law Review, Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law, Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics, and in Research in the Sociology of Work, among others. Dr. Ajunwa has been invited to present her work before governmental agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the CFPB), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the EEOC), as well as, many national and international conferences. Dr. Ajunwa's law review paper, Limitless Worker Surveillance, (with Kate Crawford and Jason Schultz) has been downloaded more than 3,000 times on SSRN and was endorsed by the NYTimes Editorial Board.

Dr. Ajunwa participated in the McNair Scholars Program at the University of California, Davis.

Source: <http://ifeomaajunwa.com/>

TRiO
WORKS!



McNair Scholars Program: Hit the Mark

McNair Events



Five students visited with graduate admissions representatives during a campus visit at the University of Kansas.



Dr. Micheal Birzer provided students with advice for selecting a mentor and fostering professional relationships.



Students had the opportunity to visit the the Brown Vs. Board of Education National Historic Site.



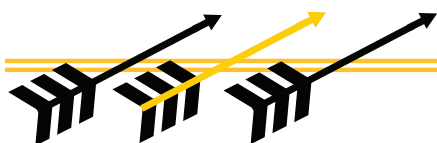
Program Director LaWanda Holt-Fields presented information about time and stress management.



Student researchers prepared to present their research at the 22nd Annual MKN Heartland McNair Research Conference.



McNair students and staff gathered for a social event at Shocker Sports Grill and Lanes to celebrate the end of the fall 2018 semester.





McNair Scholars Program

1845 N. Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0199

Inside....

Heartland McNair Conference
Grammatically Speaking
Events to Come
Someone Like Me?
McNair Events

McNair Fee Waivers/Fellowships

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), in conjunction with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), has compiled a list of McNair incentives to help Scholars find graduate schools that offer application fee waivers and/or fellowships and other opportunities that are available to McNair Scholars.

This list can be found at http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair_Fee_Waiver_List/COE/NAV_TRIO/McNair_Scholars_Fee_Waiver_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029

Highlighted Fellowship:

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas waives application fees for McNair Scholars and offers McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholarships worth \$4000.

“The Doctor”
McNair Scholars Program
Wichita State University
Grace Wilkie Annex, Room 173
Campus Box 199

Wichita, KS 67260-0199

Phone: (316) 978-3139

Fax: (316) 978-3439

E-mail: mcnairscholars@wichita.edu

Ashley Cervantes, Editor

Website: webs.wichita.edu/mcnair

Staff:

LaWanda Holt-Fields, Director

Ashley Cervantes, Program Counselor

Neshia Greene, Senior Administrative Assistant

McNair Facts: Did You Know?

McNair was the second African American to go into space. In February 1984, he was a mission specialist on STS 41-B, which was the fourth flight of the space shuttle Challenger and NASA's 10th space shuttle mission. One of his jobs was to operate the shuttle's robot arm.



Source: https://www.greensboro.com/news/things-you-should-know-about-astronaut-ronald-mcnair/article_35a46ea7-b52b-5be5-91ec-6d02a023dfe4.html

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

