

Highly motivated,
disciplined, and hardworking
individuals, uprising juniors
and seniors, who are:

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- US Citizen or permanent
Legal resident of the U.S.
- First generation college
students with demonstrated
financial need
- Historically
underrepresented minority
at the graduate level
- Good academic standing
(2.9 or higher desired)
- Majoring in Physical,
Biological or Psychological
Sciences
- Demonstrate interest in
pursuing graduate studies to
obtain a Master's and/or
Doctoral degree upon
graduation from
undergraduate institution.



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This program is sponsored by the U.S.
Department of Education and Fort
Valley State University



McNair Scholars Program

RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 151 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. Participants of the McNair Program are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (such as African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Pacific Islander) and have demonstrated strong academic potential. The McNair Program is supported by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Department of Education's Council for Opportunity in Education.

Our Partners and Sponsors

The objective of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the number of graduate degree awards for students from underrepresented groups of society. The McNair Program specifically aims to identify and prepare sophomores, juniors and seniors from Fort Valley State University for post-graduate studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. Dr. McNair graduated as valedictorian from Carver High School in 1967. In 1971, he graduated magna cum laude and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro). Dr. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in laser physics.

While working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory, Dr. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics. Because of his many accomplishments, he was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978. His first space shuttle mission launched successfully from Kennedy Space Center on February 3, 1984. Dr. Ronald E. McNair was the second African American to fly in space. Two years later he was selected to serve as mission specialist aboard the ill-fated U.S. Challenger space shuttle. After his death in the Challenger Space Shuttle accident on January 28, 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Their goal was to encourage low-income and first-generation college students, and students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups to expand their educational opportunities by enrolling in a Ph.D. program and ultimately pursue an academic career. This program is dedicated to the high standards of achievement inspired by Dr. McNair's life.

BENEFITS OF MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

- Graduate school application fee waivers
- Standardized test preparation (GRE, MCAT, etc.)
- Discounted GRE price rates
- Summer REU and Internship opportunities