



# Cleveland State University

## McNair Scholars Program

### DISCIPLINE FACULTY MENTOR - RESPONSIBILITIES

The most important aspect of the McNair Scholars Program is the Faculty Mentor/McNair Scholar relationship. Faculty Mentors provide exposure and insight essential for the McNair Scholar to understand the skills needed to become successful in the academic world. Their time, energy, expertise and commitment to mentoring scholars are invaluable resources that increase the quality of the McNair experience. For the scholar, the benefit of participating in the program depends to a large extent on the supportive relationship between the Faculty Mentor and Scholar. The relationship is designed to encourage, motivate and prepare the McNair Scholars for doctoral studies.

#### Qualifications for the Discipline Faculty Mentors

- An earned Ph.D. or hold faculty rank with terminal degree in field
- Desire to equalize opportunities for underrepresented individuals
- Possess research experience
- Attentiveness to the need of disadvantaged groups
- Commitment to the goals of the McNair Program.

#### The Ideal Discipline Faculty Mentor

- Is supportive of the scholar's pursuit of graduate/professional education
- Inspires the scholar to reach new academic heights and goals
- Provides opportunities for the scholar to develop valuable research skills
- Treats the scholar as a full-time member of a research team, if he/she has one, complete with responsibilities and privileges
- Keeps the scholar "on tract". The scholar is responsible for committing up to 30 hours per week on the research project. The scholar should be held accountable for his/her time and quality of effort
- Reports to the Program Director or Asst. Director any needs/concerns regarding either the student or the research process
- Makes arrangements to have a responsible colleague act as a proxy mentor to the scholar researcher if he/she is unavailable for more than a week

- Provides an open learning environment in which the scholar feels comfortable in approaching and asking the mentor questions
- Has a healthy belief in the intents of the undergraduate research opportunity program
- Shares information about graduate programs in the research field and encourages the scholar to pursue graduate studies

### **Responsibilities of the Discipline Faculty Mentor**

- Work closely with the scholar, meeting once a month during the academic year (**at least three times per week in the summer, those who supervise summer research scholars**)
- Complete the monthly scholar meeting report during the academic year (**weekly scholar meeting report in the summer, those who supervise summer research scholars**)
- **Provide 30 hours per week of research activities for those who participate in the summer research**
- Identify a research method course and direct scholars to the course
- Serve as the instructor, guiding the identification, design, and the completion of appropriate summer research work. For example: Abstract; introduction; literature review; methodology; results; conclusions and references.
- Give constructive and critical review of all of the components of the scholar's summer research project
- Assist the scholar in preparing and being selected for appropriate presentation of the summer research project
- Provide feedback to the McNair Program regarding both the scholar and the program in general (**monthly during the academic year and weekly in the summer**)
- Notify McNair staff immediately if the mentee is experiencing personal or academic difficulties
- Attend a culminating day that features scholar summer research presentation and an evening awards dinner
- Attend the Discipline Faculty Mentor Orientation if you are a new mentor
- Identify the summer research project before the deadline
- Review and sign the components of the scholar's summer research paper to meet the due dates

**Red text-Specially for those mentors who have scholars participating in the summer research**

### **Benefits of being a Discipline Faculty Mentor**

Most importantly, it is hoped, that the greatest benefit is a deep sense of satisfaction from the relationship. Other benefits include:

- Access to McNair scholars, providing potential graduate pool
- The mentorship commitment to a particular scholar is for a two-year period, during which time the scholar is the faculty mentor's research assistant
- The faculty mentor will receive a stipend of \$500/year/student

- The program provides up to \$300 for the Discipline Faculty Mentor to travel with the scholar to present the research outcome
- Service to the Cleveland State University
- Impact the future course of academia by increasing the number of first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students who complete post baccalaureate degrees