



Cleveland State University

TRIO McNair Scholars Program

DISCIPLINE FACULTY MENTOR - RESPONSIBILITIES

The relationship between McNair Scholars and their Faculty mentors is fundamental to the mission of the TRiO McNair Scholars Program. These Mentors provide guidance essential for Scholars to develop the skills necessary for success in higher academia. 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
- Possess research experience
- Desire to equalize opportunities for underrepresented individuals
- 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
- 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 track". The scholar is responsible for committing up to at least 35 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 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
- 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
- Complete the monthly scholar meeting report during the academic year
- Notify McNair staff immediately if the mentee is experiencing personal or academic difficulties.

Summer Research Mentor:

- Those who participate in the summer research should provide 30 hours per week of research activities for scholar.
- 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.
- 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.
- If the discipline mentor is new to the program, request Discipline Faculty Mentor Orientation from McNair director.

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 faculty mentor will receive a stipend of \$200/semester per scholar.
- The Discipline Faculty Mentor who supervises summer research will also receive additional \$300 per scholar.
- The program provides up to \$900 for the Discipline Faculty Mentor to travel with the scholar to present the research outcomes. (up to 5 mentors per year)
- 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