

Thoughts on the 2017 McNair Competition

Diana Adams Elrod, Ph.D.





When?

Historical Perspective

- 2012
 - May 9, 2012 – Notice of Application
 - Must have 30 days to write
 - June 8, 2012 – Date Due
 - August 7, 2012 – Reading Complete
 - Notification must occur 45 days prior to end of funding cycle

Remember last SSS competition and timing :-/



When?

- 2017?
 - May 15, 2017 – Notice of Application
 - Must have 30 days to write
 - June 15, 2017 – Date Due
 - August 15, 2017 – Reading Complete (2 months for reading?)
 - Notification must occur 45 days prior to end of funding cycle, October 1



When do you start the process?

Now.



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What – maybe a 62 page document . . .

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/09/2012-11252/applications-for-new-awards-ronald-e-mcnair-postbaccalaureate-achievement-program#h-28>

Page Limit: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the application narrative (Part III) to **no more than 50 pages**. However, any application addressing the competitive preference priorities may include up to four additional pages for each priority addressed (**a total of 12 pages if all three priorities are addressed**) in a separate section of the application submission to discuss how the application meets the competitive preference priority or priorities. These additional pages cannot be used for or transferred to the project narrative. Partial pages will count as a full page toward the page limit. For purpose of determining compliance with the page limit, each page on which there are words will be counted as one full page. Applicants must use the following standards: A “page” is 8.5” x 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Page numbers and an identifier may be within the 1” margin.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, *except* titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, captions, and all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is 12 point or larger.
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman and Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.





How do you start?

- Write as if your program does not exist
- Become familiar with components

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title34-vol3/xml/CFR-2011-title34-vol3-sec647-21.xml>

- Need (16 pts)
- Objectives (9 pts)
- Plan of Operation (44 pts)
- Quality of Key Personnel (9 pts)
- Adequacy of Resources and Budget (15 pts)
- Evaluation (7 pts)





How do you start - Need

- Need (16 pts)
 - Justify why YOUR campus NEEDS a McNair Scholars Program
 - Target population?
 - <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5;node=34%3A3.1.3.1.20>
 - *Target population* means the universe from which McNair participants will be selected. The universe may be expressed in terms of geography, type of institution, academic discipline, type of disadvantage, type of underrepresentation, or any other qualifying descriptor that would enable an applicant to more precisely identify the kinds of eligible project participants they wish to serve.





How do you start - Need

Table 1.1

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNT'S UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION – SPRING 2012			
<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Source of Data</i>
Enrollment	28,283	100	UNT Fall 2011 Enrollment Report
Racial/Ethnic	17,066		
White	3,703	60.3	UNT Fall 2011 Enrollment Report
Black	4,356	13.1	
Hispanic	353	15.4	
American Indian	2,805	1.3	
Other		9.9	
Low-income (Pell Eligible)	17,256	61.0	UNT – IRE*, 2012
First-generation	13,293	47.0	UNT – IRE, 2012

** UNT Institutional Research and Effectiveness (UNT IRE), 2012*



How do you start - Objectives

- Objectives (9 pts)
 - (2 points) Research or scholarly activity.
 - (**3** points) Enrollment in a graduate program.
 - (2 points) Continued enrollment in graduate study.
 - (2 points) Doctoral degree attainment





How do you start - Objectives

OBJECTIVES	
OBJECTIVE 1--RESEARCH OR SCHOLARY ACTIVITY 85% of UNT McNair Scholars Program participants served during the project year will have completed appropriate research or scholarly activities during the McNair Scholars Program academic year.	
<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Need	The target population historically has limited experience with mentoring and research faculty, conducting research, and preparing research proposals/presentations/publications. McNair is the only such program at UNT.
Measurable	Participation percentage will be calculated based on completion of Research Action Plans, Progress Reports, Summer Weekly Research Reports, Workshops, Mid-Semester Review, Research Proposals, Abstracts, Presentations, Conference Registrations, and other
Ambitious	Target population is underrepresented in undergraduate research and mentoring by faculty at UNT. McNair is the only such program at UNT for the target population.
Attainable	Program will provide mentoring, quality research experiences, and workshops with faculty mentors and other research faculty.
Budget	Approximately 40% of the budget will be used to meet this objective.





How do you start – Plan of Operation

- Plan of Operation (44 pts)
 - How will you address need AND objectives?
 - Well, you are provided an outline!





How do you start – Plan of Operation

FROM
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/09/2012-11252/applications-for-new-awards-ronald-e-mcnair-postbaccalaureate-achievement-program#h-28>



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- (c) Plan of Operation (44 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the applicant's plans of operation, including—
- (1) (4 points) The plan for identifying, recruiting and selecting participants to be served by the project, including students enrolled in the Student Support Services program;
- (2) (4 points) The plan for assessing individual participant needs and for monitoring the academic growth of participants during the period in which the student is a McNair participant;
- (3) (5 points) The plan for providing high quality research and scholarly activities in which participants will be involved;
- (4) (5 points) The plan for involving faculty members in the design of research activities in which students will be involved;
- (5) (5 points) The plan for providing internships, seminars, and other educational activities designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral study;
- (6) (5 points) The plan for providing individual or group services designed to enhance a student's successful entry into post baccalaureate education;
- (7) (3 points) The plan to inform the institutional community of the goals and objectives of the project;
- (8) (8 points) The plan to ensure proper and efficient administration of the project, including, but not limited to matters such as financial management, student records management, personnel management, the organizational structure, and the plan for coordinating the McNair project with other programs for disadvantaged students; and
- (9) (5 points) The follow-up plan that will be used to track the academic and career accomplishments of participants after they are no longer participating in the McNair project.

FROM TABLE OF CONTENTS FROM ACTUAL PROPOSAL

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 - A. Plan for Identifying, Recruiting, & Selecting Participants
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 - B. Plan for Assessing Participant Needs & Monitoring Academic Growth
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 - C. Plan for Providing High Quality Research & Scholarly Activities
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 - D. Plan for Involving Faculty in Design of Research Activities
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 - E. Plan for Providing Internships, Seminars, & Other Educational Activities Designed to Prepare Scholars for Doctoral Study
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 - F. Plan for Providing Individual or Group Services
27
 - G. Plan to Inform Institutional Community of Goals & Objectives of the Project
30
 - H. Plan to Ensure Efficient Administration of the Program
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How do you start – Plan of Operation

SUMMARY OF PLAN FOR IDENTIFICATION, RECRUITMENT, & SELECTION			
	<i>Who</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>When</i>
Identify & Recruit	McNair Staff	Class visits (greater effort expended on STEM disciplines, psychology, and anthropology), website, brochures, UNT media	Year-round
	Advisory Board	Classes, campus meetings	Year-round
	University Community (President, Provost, Deans, Chairs, Faculty, Program Directors – SSS, FOCUS, etc)	Meetings w/ & follow-up letters sent to colleges, departments, offices, programs, & individuals with greater effort expended on STEM disciplines	Year-round w/ additional effort each August, September, October every year
	Campus & Community Organizations (i.e. NAACP, LULAC)	Meetings w/and letters & flyers sent to organizations	Year-round w/ additional effort each August, September, October every year
Select	McNair Staff & Advisory Board	Applications, screenings, interviews, & ranking	September, October, November each year





How do you start – Key Personnel

- Quality of Key Personnel (9 pts)
 - DO NOT USE CURRENT STAFF CV/RESUMES!





How do you start – Resources & Budget

- Adequacy of Resources and Budget (15 pts)

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5;node=34%3A3.1.3.1.20>

- (1) The applicant's proposed allocation of resources in the budget is clearly related to the objectives of the project;
- (2) Project costs and resources, including facilities, equipment, and supplies, are reasonable in relation to the objectives and scope of the project; and
- (3) The applicant's proposed commitment of institutional resources to the McNair participants, as for example, the commitment of time from institutional research faculty and the waiver of tuition and fees for McNair participants engaged in summer research projects.





How do you start – Resources & Budget

OBJECTIVES IN RELATION TO BUDGET ALLOCATIONS		
	<i>Category/Activity</i>	<i>Explanation/Resources</i>
Research <i>Objective 1</i> – participation in research . . .	Technical (for actual research, preparation for presentation of findings, & preparation of manuscripts)	Computers, software (i.e. Adobe Illustrator, statistical packages, etc), printers, supplies,
	Research Presentation Expenditures (conferences – national & regional, professional & peer)	Registration, travel, lodging, meals, printing costs (if poster)
	Research Supplies	Laboratory supplies, flash drives, etc.
Scholarly Activities <i>Objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4</i> - activities provided for the preparation for entry into, & completion of, doctoral degrees	Graduate Program Visits	Travel, lodging, meals
	GRE Preparation Class	Tutors, materials
	Orientations/ Workshops/Meetings	Team building, skill/capital building, professional etiquette course, copies, refreshments, etc.
	Scholar & Mentor Recognition Luncheon	Meals, awards, etc
	<i>Introduction to Research & Scholarly Activity Course</i> – UCRS 3150	Class materials, refreshments, copies, etc
	Scholar Resource Library	Texts (<i>Negotiating Graduate School</i> , <i>The Grad School Handbook</i>), basic style guides (APA, MLA, etc), & other reference materials





How do you start - Evaluation

- Evaluation (7 pts)

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5;node=34%3A3.1.3.1.20>

(f) *Evaluation plan* (7 points). The Secretary evaluates the quality of the evaluation plan for the project on the basis of the extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation—

(1) Are appropriate to the project's objectives;

(2) Provide for the applicant to determine, in specific and measurable ways, the success of the project in—

(i) Making progress toward achieving its objectives (a formative evaluation); and

(ii) Achieving its objectives at the end of the project period (a summative evaluation); and

(3) Provide for a description of other project outcomes, including the use of quantifiable measures, if appropriate





How do you start - Evaluation

BENCHMARKS	
BENCHMARK: Participation in Scholarly & Research Activities (OBJ 1: 85% percent of McNair participants who complete research or other scholarly activities will continue in their undergraduate program)	
Criteria	Data Source
90% of participants will have mentor-approved Research Action Plans, Mid-semester & Services Review form (includes initial need for services), & Progress Reports filed by April 15 of the first year in program & 3X annually thereafter	Mid-semester & Services Review Form (MSSR), Progress Reports (PR), Research Action Plan (RAP), Summer Weekly Research Reports (SWRR), Workshop Attendance Sheets, Conference Registration, & Research Abstracts, Proposals, Presentations, & Publications/Papers Above provides data for the <i>Student Services Report</i>
80% of faculty mentors will receive mentor handbooks & will meet with staff at least 2X annually	
80% of participants will submit faculty mentor-approved research proposals by May 1 of each year (exception – those graduating that May)	
90% of eligible participants will participate in Intensive Summer Research Experiences with faculty mentors annually	
85% of eligible participants will participate in Academic Year Research Experiences with faculty mentors annually	
90% of participants will participate in at least 1 conference annually	
90% of first-year participants will participate in a two-credit hour summer research course annually	
80% of participants will participate in monthly, academic year workshops	
80% of participants will be authors on faculty mentor-approved publication-quality papers prior to graduation.	





How do you start - CPP

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/09/2012-11252/applications-for-new-awards-ronald-e-mcnair-postbaccalaureate-achievement-program#h-28>

The President has set a clear goal for our education system: By 2020, the United States will once again lead the world in college attainment. The Department views the McNair Program as a critical component in the effort to improve the quality of student outcomes so that more students are well prepared for college and careers. **To more strategically align the McNair Program with overarching reform strategies for postsecondary completion and graduate school enrollment, the Department is announcing three competitive preference priorities for this competition.**

Priorities: There are three competitive preference priorities: Competitive Preference Priority 1—Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education; Competitive Preference Priority 2—Improving Productivity; and Competitive Preference Priority 3—Building Evidence of Effectiveness.



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How do you start - CPP

- What is working?
- What is not working?
- What will they be in 2017?





How do you start – CPP for SSS 2015

Competitive Preference Priority 1(a)—Influencing the Development of Non-Cognitive Factors (Up to 1 Additional Point)

Competitive Preference Priority 1(b)—Strategies To Influence the Development of Non-Cognitive Factors Supported by Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness (Up to 2 Additional Points)

Competitive Preference Priority 2(a)—Providing Individualized Counseling for Personal, Career, and Academic Matters (Up to 1 Additional Point)

Competitive Preference Priority 2(b)—Individual Counseling Activities Based on Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness (2 Additional Points)

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/12/18/2014-29769/applications-for-new-awards-student-support-services-program#h-7>

Relevant studies will be reviewed to determine if they meet the definition of moderate evidence of effectiveness, including What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards, with or without reservations, which is necessary to fulfill the definition of moderate evidence of effectiveness. The WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook (Version 3.0, March 2014), can be found at: http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/reference_resources/wwc_procedures_v3_0_standards_handbook.pdf.





Topics from yesterday not yet addressed . . .



<http://www.dianaelrod.com/contact.html>

