

**This section to be completed by the applicant. Please print or type.**

**Applicant** - With the exception of the contents of this box, this form should be completed by your recommender and returned to you in a sealed envelope for inclusion in your application packet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial

I hereby waive any right to examine this letter of recommendation. I realize that the NC State TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program will utilize this recommendation only in conjunction with consideration of my admission to the program. I realize my right of access to this recommendation is not a condition of my admission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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### **About the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program**

Part of the federally funded TRIO programs, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program) is designed to encourage low-income, first-generation college students and students from groups currently underrepresented in graduate education to pursue a doctoral degree in their chosen field. The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program is named in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, one of seven crew members aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. Despite social and economic barriers, Dr. McNair earned many outstanding achievements such as completing a Ph.D. in Physics from M.I.T. at the age of 26 and was the second African-American to fly in space. In addition, Dr. McNair received many distinguished awards, including the National Ford Foundation Fellowship and the Presidential Scholarship.

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at NC State is one of 187 programs at colleges and universities across the country and part of a group of federal programs known collectively as TRIO. The McNair Scholars Program helps qualified undergraduate students prepare for admission to doctoral programs and the successful pursuit of PhD degrees. The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program provides undergraduates with critical research experiences, GRE preparation sessions, faculty mentoring, professional skills, and assistance with the graduate school application process at no cost to the student. Participants are required to be engaged in academic research.

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**To the Recommender:**

Thank you for assisting the applicant with their TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program application. In order to ensure accurate evaluation of the applicant, we request that you complete this form in confidence and return it to the requester in a sealed envelope. The requester will include it as part of their application packet. If it is more convenient, you may submit this form directly to our office.

**In addition to completing the chart below, we ask that you include a separate letter that addresses the following:**

- your association with the applicant,
- the applicant's potential for successful entry into graduate school and completion of a doctoral degree,
- the applicant's skills and strengths, as well as areas in need of improvement, and
- ways in which the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant

In describing such attributes as motivation, intellect, and maturity, discuss both strong and weak points.

***Please return this form directly to the student or to the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program office in a sealed envelope with your signature over the seal.***

TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program  
Park Shops 204 | Campus Box 7105  
Raleigh, NC 27695

[trio-mcnair@ncsu.edu](mailto:trio-mcnair@ncsu.edu)

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? (Give dates, if possible.)
  
2. **For instructors of applicants only.** I would rank this applicant in the top \_\_\_\_\_% of the approximately \_\_\_\_\_ undergraduate students I have taught with the last five years.
3. Please rate the applicant in each attribute/skill listed below compared to other students with whom you have worked.

<b>Attributes/Abilities</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Intellectual Potential	
Critical Thinking	
Research Ability	
Oral Expression	
Written Expression	

Open-mindedness	
Creativity	
Flexibility	
Dependability	
Motivation/Initiative	
Emotional Maturity	
Motivation for the pursuit of advanced graduate study	
Present academic performance in area of concentration	

**4. What are the applicant's greatest strengths and weaknesses with regard to academics, research ability or other characteristics relative to academic success?**

**5. Recommendation concerning selection for the program (check one):**

- I recommend the applicant with confidence.
- I recommend the applicant
- I recommend the applicant with reservation.
- I do not recommend the applicant.

**Faculty Mentor Interest:** Being a Faculty Mentor entails providing support for scholars in their research interests, profession work habits, and guiding them through their graduate school search & funding opportunities. You will be asked to meet 1-on-1 with the scholar at least once a month. We are also asking that you keep in close communication with the McNair staff regarding matters that are relevant to the performance and progress of the scholar.

**If this applicant was accepted into the McNair Scholars Program, would you be willing and able to serve as their Faculty Mentor?**

- Yes       No       Maybe

**If yes, please provide a brief description of the research project that this student would be a part of:**

**Letter of Recommendation:** Please include a separate letter that address ways in which the TRIO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program may be of greatest benefit to the applicant. Please provide any additional comments and/or assessment of the applicant's potential for success in graduate school. We will appreciate your candid appraisal.

Evaluator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title and Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_