

# TRiO

## McNair Scholars Program ST. OLAF COLLEGE

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

The TRiO McNair Scholars Program is a graduate school preparation program designed to assist low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented college students with developing the skills and motivation necessary to successfully pursue doctoral education and a career in the professoriate. Annually, 27 college students participate in the St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program. (The federal government defines "underrepresented" to include: Black (non-Hispanic); Hispanic; and American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION BY NOVEMBER 21, 2011

**Mail to:**

Janis Johnson  
TRiO McNair Program Director  
St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Hand Deliver to:**

Janis Johnson  
TRiO/Education Department TOH 290

McNair Scholars is a TRiO program funded by the United States Department of Education and sponsored by St. Olaf College. The McNair Scholars Program and St. Olaf College are committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.



**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**  
St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program



*You can use this checklist to help you organize your application materials. As you complete sections of the application, check them off the list. The application deadline for the St. Olaf College TRiO McNair Scholars Program is November 21, 2011. **Applications must be postmarked on or before November 21, 2011.***

- Completed Sections A through D
- In Section D: Reported your taxable—*not total*—income. Refer to correct line on tax form.
- Enclosed a photocopy of the IRS 1040A, 1040EZ OR 1040 or recent proof of financial aid Student Aid Report (SAR) (Section D)
- Attached a two-page, double-spaced, 12 pt. font essay (Section E)
- Enclosed an unofficial copy of your transcript (Section F)
- Enclosed a copy of your permanent resident card (if applicable)
- Delivered Recommendation Forms to three recommenders (Section H)
- Signed and dated the application (Section I)
- Sent all materials on or before November 21, 2011 to:

Janis Johnson  
TRiO McNair Program Director  
St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Hand Deliver to:**  
Janis Johnson  
TRiO/Education Department TOH 290

(507) 786-3967    (866) 248-1434

Thank you for your interest in the TRiO McNair Scholars Program at St. Olaf College. We look forward to receiving your application. Applicants *may* be called to interview, which will take place throughout the first two weeks of December. Students who are accepted into the St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program will be notified in December as soon as all applications are read, interviews conducted, and decisions are finalized. If you have any questions, please contact the TRiO McNair Scholars office and we will be happy to assist you.



## ST. OLAF TRIO MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Janis Johnson, Director    Melissa Hinderscheit, Advisor  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue    Northfield, MN 55057  
(507) 786-3967    (866) 248-1434



### Goals:

- To generate higher-level academic and research skills necessary for success in graduate school.
- To increase the rate of doctoral program completion and participation in the professoriate by first-generation, low-income college students and students who are underrepresented in specific graduate programs. (The federal government defines "underrepresented" to include: Black (non-Hispanic); Hispanic; and American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.)

### Services:

- Sophomores
  - Interviewing skills
  - Resume development
  - On or off-campus summer internships/research which assist students in exploring viable fields of academic study
- Juniors
  - Seminars and workshops focused on GRE preparation
  - Graduate school visits and program exploration
  - GRE fee-reduction waiver and test registration
  - Nine-week paid [\$2,800.00] summer research experience with a college faculty mentor whose research interests coincide with those of the McNair Scholar. A one-credit course on research writing skills will be offered concurrently.
- Seniors
  - Seminars and workshops focused on GRE preparation and selection and application to graduate school
  - Personal statement and CV development
  - Assistance with financial aid, scholarship and fellowship applications (With successful participation in the McNair Scholars Program, students become eligible for graduate school application fee waivers and graduate school fellowships at some institutions.)

### Potential Student Participants:

- Annually, 27 undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate studies and careers as college faculty participate in the St. Olaf McNair Scholars Program.
- Two-thirds of the participants meet federal income guidelines and are from a family in which neither parent graduated from a four-year postsecondary educational institution.
- One third of the participants may be from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate studies and the professoriate.
- All applicants have taken at least 2 courses in their area of research interest
- Preferred applicants are independent and motivated undergraduates with good writing skills and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 or a 3.0 GPA in their major who possess intellectual curiosity and are interested in conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

### McNair Faculty:

- McNair faculty mentors are St. Olaf College professors who are recognized as exceptional teachers and campus leaders from all disciplines who are interested in guiding summer research experiences with high potential, first-generation and underrepresented undergraduates.





**D. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

*Statement of Confidentiality: The information contained in this application is for the purpose of determining the applicant's eligibility for the TRiO McNair Scholars Program. Information received is treated confidentially.*

**Please attach a photocopy of the appropriate federal income tax form and/or a copy of your most recent Student Aid Report (SAR).**

*The following questions will determine if you are an independent or dependent student.*

- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?  Yes  No
- Were you born before January 1, 1988?  Yes  No
- As of today, are you married?  Yes  No
- Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?  Yes  No
- Are both of your parents deceased, or are you a ward/dependent of the court?  Yes  No
- Do you have dependents who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?  Yes  No

If you answered NO to every question, you are a DEPENDENT student. **Complete Section 1.**  
If you answered YES to **any** question, you are an INDEPENDENT student. **Complete Section 2.**

**SECTION 1 FOR DEPENDENT STUDENTS**

What is the size of your parents' household, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

Did your parent(s) file a federal tax return for 2010?  Yes  No

If **yes**, what was their 2010 taxable income? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(line 27 on form 1040A; line 6 on form 1040E; line 43 on IRS form 1040)

If **no**, place a "0" on the line above for taxable income.

**SECTION 2 FOR INDEPENDENT STUDENTS**

What is the size of your household, including yourself, spouse, and/or other dependents? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you file a federal tax return for 2010?  Yes  No

If **yes**, what was your 2010 taxable income? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(line 27 on form 1040A; line 6 on form 1040E; line 43 on IRS form 1040)

If **no**, place a "0" on the line above for taxable income.

*Does your family receive assistance from any of the following sources?*

- Public Assistance (MFIP, workfare, etc.)     Yes    No   If, yes, which? \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Security/SSI                             Yes    No
- Veterans' Benefits                               Yes    No
- Food Stamps                                       Yes    No
- Unemployment Compensation               Yes    No
- Federally Supported Housing                Yes    No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_                                 Yes    No

### E. ESSAY

Please compose a brief essay, about two pages, double-spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins. This essay will be read by McNair Scholars personnel and professors in your field. Your essay should include:

- (1) your academic, personal and career goals,
- (2) how graduate school will help you attain these goals,
- (3) a description of the degree and graduate program that interest you,
- (4) extenuating circumstances, if any, that may have affected your GPA.

### F. TRANSCRIPTS

Please attach an **unofficial** transcript(s) to this application.

### G. HOUSING

The TRiO McNair Scholars Program provides room and board for juniors during their McNair summer research experience.

**H. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Three (3) recommendation forms, two (2) of which should be from faculty in your major field of study. Please list the following information for each of your recommenders:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE**

My signature below indicates that:

- the St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program may share my personal statement, academic records, test scores and income and other information with faculty, staff, graduate school personnel, fellowship committees and McNair funders in order to make the best possible match of my research interests and future graduate school admission and enrollment.
- the St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program has my permission to access information such as transcripts, enrollment information, graduation information, etc. while I am in the program and for the purpose of follow-up and tracking purposes after my participation in the program.
- to the best of my knowledge, the information given on this application is true, complete, and accurate.

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

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

**TRiO**  
 McNair Scholars Program  
 ST. OLAF COLLEGE