2017 Summer Research Internship

Faculty Mentor Handbook
I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The UNI McNair Scholars Program provides enriching scholastic experiences that prepare eligible Scholars for doctoral education. To accomplish this, the program gives participating Scholars the unique opportunity to develop the highest level of academic and research skills needed for admission to and completion of Ph.D. programs. Although McNair Scholars are eligible for services only until they complete their baccalaureate degrees, the McNair staff continues to support scholars by providing moral support, advice, and guidance to all McNair Alumni throughout their graduate years and into their professional endeavors.

Faculty-Guided Research experiences increase a McNair Scholar’s competitiveness for graduate study. Oftentimes, a lasting relationship is formed between the faculty mentor and the Scholar that expands beyond the Summer Research Internship (SRI). Research projects distinguish applicants for graduate programs. Through faculty-guided research, students learn research methodology and protocol in their discipline and come to understand expectations common to graduate study and your profession. Through close contact with you as the faculty mentor, the Scholar should also be able to receive a more detailed letter of recommendation for their graduate school applications.

Scholars and their faculty mentors who participate in summer research through the McNair Scholars Program work on various projects. While outcomes greatly differ, the steps are generally the same and students should participate all of them. These steps include:

→ Identify a research question
→ Construct an argument or hypothesis
→ Review existing literature
→ Determine methodology
→ Gather data
→ Analyze data
→ Write a research paper
→ Present research orally

Research is hard work, but like any challenging experience, both the process and the results bring immense personal satisfaction. Reporting research findings requires the researcher to think steadily about how the work relates to the subject and the existing body of knowledge, especially when the researcher believes that they have something to say that is important enough to cause readers to change what and how they think.
The Faculty Mentor Role

The faculty mentor is the most critical piece of a successful McNair Scholar’s journey toward a graduate degree. A mentor not only trains the scholar in appropriate research methodologies and techniques, but also serves as a role model during this critical time of academic development. In many cases, the summer research experience is the first time a scholar may be able to see themselves in the role of an academic, and is often a pivotal point in the decision to move forward toward a doctoral degree. This shift in perception is not possible without the mentorship and guidance you will provide throughout the summer research internship. The McNair Scholars Program Director and staff thank you for your willingness to consider providing this service to one of our carefully selected and deserving scholars. We ask, as a McNair Scholar faculty mentor, that you be willing and able to commit to the following:

1. To commit to mentoring your McNair Scholar during the nine weeks of the Summer Research Institute (Monday, June 5 through Friday, August 4, 2017).

2. To design a research project with the Scholar researcher that will be intellectually stimulating and challenging, and can be completed within the nine weeks of the summer.

3. To develop milestones in conjunction with the Scholar which will serve as a timeline for project completion and payment of Scholar stipends.

4. To sign forms and paperwork in a timely manner (either wet signatures or digital) when requested so that the McNair Scholars office may process payments as soon as the scholar has completed their milestones.

5. To be willing to meet with the Scholar at least once a week during the summer to discuss the progress of the research project. Additional meetings should be anticipated as the Scholar progresses throughout the summer.

6. To provide constructive feedback on Scholar's written and oral communication.

7. To complete a midterm and final evaluation of the research project, sharing the information with the Scholar and the McNair Scholars Program Director.

8. To advise the Scholar if and when academic and personal concerns arise and refer them to resources for help on and off campus, and to notify the McNair Scholars Program Director.

9. To foster a sense of self-worth, self-confidence, and academic achievement in the Scholar.

10. To advise the Scholar about graduate school opportunities and to provide information that will increase their competitiveness for graduate study.

Should difficulties arise at any time during the program, please contact:

Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, McNair Scholars Program Director
nievita.watts@uni.edu
319-273-7234
II. LOGISTICS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Dates**

June 5 – August 4, 2017

The 2017 University of Northern Iowa McNair Summer Research Internship officially begins on June 5, 2017 and continues through August 4, 2017, although some scholars may begin earlier by special arrangement.

**The Mentor & Scholar Agreement**

The initial and most important step of the research experience is the Mentor & Scholar Agreement. The scholar should contact a prospective mentor by telephone or email and set up a mutually convenient time for a conversation. Multiple mentors are acceptable, but roles and expectations should be clearly articulated and agreed upon. Similarly, if circumstances provide, more than one scholar can work with the same mentor, and/or on the same research project.

During the interview:

→ Review the required forms together to become familiar with the components of the Summer Research Internship.

→ Discuss expectations such as duties, hours, behaviors, and goals.

→ Determine whether or not schedules are compatible and goals are realistic.

→ Discuss any times when the mentor and/or student has prior obligations and develop alternate forms of communication and a temporary mentor if unavailable more than one week.

→ Fill out the Mentor & Scholar Agreement; Scholar to submit to McNair Program Office

**Research Proposals**

Due May 13, 2017

Each McNair Scholar conducting research during the 2017 summer will prepare a research proposal and submit it to the McNair Scholars Program Office by Friday, May 13, 2017. The faculty mentor must sign the research proposal, acknowledging that they have read and approved the plan.

Research may not be started (i.e., no money will be disbursed) until the research proposal has been approved, signed by the faculty research mentor, and submitted to the McNair Scholars Program Office. If appropriate, the UNI Institutional Review Board (IRB) must also approve the research before the Scholar begins any data collection.

The scholar and mentor are expected to meet before the research experience begins. The purpose of this initial meeting is to set long and short-term research goals, determine the research action plan, and set the time-line for research and/or proposal completion. The scholar is responsible for submitting a research proposal to the McNair Scholars Program Director and making an appointment to discuss the project with them. The objective of the proposal is to provide a clear and logical presentation of the 9 week summer research project. Format, sentence structure, and
grammar are as important as the subject content. Faculty mentors are encouraged to comment both on content and writing style of the research plan. In addition, the McNair Scholars Program Director will not accept the proposal without a signature signifying that the faculty mentor is satisfied with the proposal as written.

The research proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following components:

→ statement of research problem
→ methodology
→ implications of the research
→ timeline for completion within the nine weeks
→ Stipend Disbursement Agreement

Stipend Disbursement Agreement

Due May 13, 2017

The Scholar may receive as much as $2,800 for the research internship, in increments as described in the Stipend Disbursement Agreement. The plan for the completion of tasks and the disbursement of stipends is formalized in this agreement, a sample of which appears as an appendix to this Handbook. It is also available on-line at https://web.uni.edu/mcnair/sri. The Scholar must complete a series of research tasks or milestones by a prescribed date to receive a stipend disbursement. The tasks themselves may vary from scholar to scholar as their projects dictate. The final list of tasks, dates and payments will be set by negotiation among the scholar, the mentor, and the Director prior to the beginning of the SRI, and documented in the Stipend Disbursement Agreement. Please note: All stipend amounts, as well as research tasks for Milestones # 5 & # 6 are fixed and may not be altered.

Milestone Completion form

Due when Milestone has been completed

When a Scholar has completed a milestone to the satisfaction of their faculty mentor, a Milestone Completion form must be prepared and submitted. This form is to be completed by the faculty mentor and returned to the McNair Scholars Program Director in Honors Cottage 009, emailed directly to: Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts nievita.watts@uni.edu, or hand-delivered by the Scholar, as you prefer. An e-mail sent directly from a faculty mentor’s account will signify that the mentor has digitally signed the form.

The McNair Scholars Program Office cannot process or release any Internship Stipend without this form. The form is required for each of Milestones # 1, 2, 3 & 4, and signals your satisfaction and certification that the scholar has completed that research task.

Milestone #5 requires the Research Acceptance Form
Milestone #6 will be processed by the McNair Scholars Program Director

If a scholar does not complete and turn in the assigned work by the agreed upon due date listed on their Stipend Disbursement Agreement, accompanied by a signed Milestone Completion form they will not receive that portion of the stipend until they complete the work. If a scholar cannot complete an assignment by the due date, they must contact their faculty mentor and
McNair Scholars Program Director immediately. All changes to the Stipend Disbursement Agreement must be documented, approved and signed by both the faculty mentor and the McNair Scholars Program Director. All milestones must be completed in the order agreed upon in the Stipend Disbursement Agreement to receive payment.

No stipend payments will be made on any milestone not completed by **Friday, August 4, 2017. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Time and Effort (Research) Logs**

The Scholar will keep track of their research hours throughout the SRI on weekly log forms which they will submit to McNair staff. They are also asked to record time spent attending our bi-weekly seminars, doing GRE preparation, consulting with the Writing Lab, or other research-related activities. The weekly Time and Effort Log form is included in this Handbook’s appendix. This form, signed by the scholar, is due to Brenda Whiteside, McNair Scholars Program Secretary, by 4:00 p.m. each Friday.

**Summer Site Visits**

During the summer program, a member of the staff will schedule a 30-minute, on-site visit with you and the Scholar at your research site. These visits serve to increase communication among staff, mentors, and scholars, to clarify everyone’s expectations and responsibilities, and to assess Scholars’ needs. We will contact you directly to make an appointment for this visit.

**Research Paper**

All Scholars are required to produce a research paper, which will be due no later than **August 2, 2017 at 5PM.** Scholars must submit a copy of the final research paper and a signed copy of the Research Acceptance Form to the McNair Scholars Program Office by the deadline to receive payment for **Milestone #5.**

The Research Paper should contain the following elements (as modified and advised by you, the research mentor):
1. Title, authors and institutions
2. Introduction
3. Literature Review
4. Statement of problem/research question/hypothesis
5. Research methods
6. Results (must include at least one table or graph)
7. Discussion
8. Conclusion
9. References (must be consistent, and in appropriate style for your field)
10. Abstract (written last and then placed at beginning of paper, before Intro)
Oral Research Presentation Due August 4, 2017

All scholars are expected to deliver an oral presentation of their summer research at the culmination of the Summer Research Internship. You, the faculty mentor, should approve of the presentation format and content prior to the presentation day. Additionally, all students provided with the opportunity to attend professional conferences with McNair Scholars Program funds are expected to submit an abstract for presentation, oral or poster. This includes any McNair Scholars Program conferences attended during the summer research internship. The Scholars are instructed that all presentation content should always be pre-approved by faculty mentors both during their time here at UNI and during their graduate school experience. Please address any concerns with the dissemination of research results with the McNair Scholars Program Director as soon as a problem is perceived.

The oral presentation should be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, twelve minutes in length, with three minutes for questions (total time: 15 minutes). The SRI 2017 presentation will be held on August 4, 2017 at 10am. Faculty mentors and other interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend.

Poster Presentations

The poster presentation is the culmination of the intensive summer program. After the Summer Research Internship finishes, Scholars will prepare a research poster under the guidance of their mentor and program staff. Summer interns may travel to a National McNair Conference to present their research to the McNair community. As an additional benefit, most McNair Conferences have a Graduate School Fair, where recruiters and other representatives of graduate schools are available to answer whatever questions you may have, and to provide information about their programs and unique opportunities their institutions have to offer.

Publications

All scholars should take their research very seriously and participate in scholarly activities such as paper submissions and conferences outside of the McNair program. Scholars should make plans with their mentor to co-author professional articles, if appropriate. Scholars are encouraged to submit at least one publication-quality research paper before they graduate. We recommend that mentors and scholars discuss this at the beginning of their research experience. A published, peer-reviewed article is not required, but should be their goal.

Project Time Commitment

Faculty mentors are expected to meet with scholars at least once a week, and be available for consultation when needed. If you will be unavailable for more than a week we ask that you inform the McNair Scholars Program Director and provide the name of a colleague the student can contact if necessary. Scholars are expected to devote a minimum of 35 hours per week during the nine weeks of the program. (Monday, June 5 - Friday, August 4, 2017 unless other arrangements have been made).
Scholars Program will provide an additional 5 hours of mandatory training in academic writing and graduate school preparation each week.

**Research Activities and Scholar Meetings**
T/Th 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Mandatory SRI meetings will be held throughout the summer session. These meetings will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm in the Honors Cottage Classroom. Failure to attend these meetings may affect your Scholar’s stipend payment.

**Mentor Evaluations of McNair Scholars**
Due July 6th & August 3rd
Faculty mentors who participate in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute are asked to submit evaluations of their student’s progress on the following dates:

→ Midterm Mentor Evaluation of Scholar Due Date: Thursday, July 6, 2017
→ Final Mentor Evaluation of Scholar Due Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017

Evaluation forms are attached to the end of this document, but Word versions can also be found on the McNair program web-site here: [https://web.uni.edu/mcnair/sri](https://web.uni.edu/mcnair/sri)

**Research Expenses**
Scholars may need books and/or supplies to conduct their individual project. The McNair Scholars Program *may* have a limited amount of funds available to help defray a portion of the expenses that are directly related to the scholar’s research project. A tentative budget of research expenditures should be submitted with the Research Proposal. **Approval for expenditures must be requested, in writing, from the McNair Scholars Program Director prior to purchase.**

**Travel**
Travel is not a normal research expense for Scholars. A detailed rationale, signed by the faculty research mentor, which describes the relationship of travel to the research goals must be submitted to the McNair Scholars Program Director one month in advance of any travel dates.

**McNair Office Hours and Holidays**
The McNair office will observe UNI summer hours which are 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. UNI is closed Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day).
### III PROGRAM ROLES

Scholars, faculty mentors, and staff each have specific roles and responsibilities and should meet program, research, and personal expectations throughout the experience. Each scholar’s experience is unique, so the following roles give the minimum responsibilities for the program, and can be built upon to ensure the individual success of each scholar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar Commitment</th>
<th>Mentor Commitment</th>
<th>Program Commitment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select a faculty mentor</td>
<td>Commit to the progression and success of the scholar</td>
<td>Oversee the mentor/scholar relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct ongoing research under the guidance of a faculty mentor</td>
<td>Guide the scholar through the research process</td>
<td>Provide resources for scholars to conduct research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present research at a professional conference or a national McNair conference</td>
<td>Assist the scholar with developing presentations, both oral and poster</td>
<td>Provide travel assistance to professional and McNair conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek academic, personal, and career counseling when needed</td>
<td>Encourage the scholar to seek academic, personal, and career counseling when appropriate</td>
<td>Provide resources for academic, personal, and career counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare for the GRE</td>
<td>Promote the importance of the GRE in maximizing opportunities for the scholar</td>
<td>Offer GRE tutoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research potential graduate programs</td>
<td>Assist the scholar with selecting an appropriate and realistic graduate program</td>
<td>Provide logistical support in the graduate program selection process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to graduate school</td>
<td>Support the scholar through the graduate application process</td>
<td>Provide assistance and support in the graduate school application process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergo reviews throughout the year</td>
<td>Evaluate scholar's progress throughout the year</td>
<td>Monitor scholars' progress throughout the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhere to staff and mentor directions and guidance</td>
<td>Work with staff to facilitate scholar's professional growth and development</td>
<td>Provide direction for scholars' professional growth and development</td>
</tr>
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IV. FORMS

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MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Summer Research Internship
Mentor & McNair Scholar Agreement

Please complete and return to:
Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, Director
McNair Scholars Program
2401 College Street
nievita.watts@uni.edu

Scholar's Information
Name: 
Major: 
Email: 
Phone: 

Faculty Mentor's Information
Name: 
Office: 
Email: 
Phone: 

Agreement
Each scholar must participate in the mentoring component of the McNair Scholars Program. All scholars must assume the following responsibilities:

1. I will keep all scheduled appointments with the faculty mentor.
2. I will be prompt for both meetings and research.
3. I will notify my mentor in advance of scheduling conflicts that prohibit my attendance at a mentor and mentee conference, and reschedule the appointment at that time.
4. I will regularly update my Time and Effort Log
5. I will immediately contact my faculty mentor and/or McNair Director as soon as a problem arises.

By signing this form I, , McNair Scholar, agree to assume all responsibilities required for participation in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Internship. I further agree that failure to comply with the rules governing the program may be cause for my dismissal from the program.

Scholar Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________

By signing this form I, , UNI faculty mentor, agree to meet with, mentor and guide this McNair Scholar during the Summer Research Institute, and provide either wet or electronic signatures for completed work when needed.

Mentor Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Summer Research Internship
Stipend Disbursement Agreement

Please complete and return to:
McNair Scholars Program
Honors Cottage 109
mcnair@uni.edu

For: __________________________

You must complete a series of research tasks during the SRI session to receive stipend disbursements. The tasks themselves may vary from student to student as their projects dictate. The final list of tasks will be set by negotiation among the scholar, the mentor, and the Director.

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<tr>
<th>MILESTONE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>RESEARCH TASKS</th>
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</table>
| 1         |      | $500.00| 1. TASK 1
|           |      |        | 2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |
| 2         |      | $500.00| 1. TASK 2
|           |      |        | 2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |
| 3         |      | $500.00| 1. TASK 3
|           |      |        | 2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |
| 4         |      | $500.00| 1. TASK 4
|           |      |        | 2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |
| 5         | No later than August 2, 2017 | $400.00| 1. Final Research Paper
|           |      |        | 2. Mentor Acceptance Form |
| 6         |      | $400.00| 1. Oral Research Presentation
|           |      |        | 2. McNair Staff or Mentor Report (Satisfactory) |

TOTAL (possible) $2,800.00

Student Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

Mentor Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

Mentor Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________
You must complete a series of research tasks during the SRI session to receive stipend disbursements. The tasks themselves may vary from student to student as their projects dictate. The final list of tasks will be set by negotiation among the scholar, the mentor, and the Director.

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<th>MILESTONE</th>
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<th>RESEARCH TASKS</th>
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| 1         | June 17          | $500.00   | 1. Literature Review  
2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |  |
| 2         | June 30          | $500.00   | 1. Methods & Data  
2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |  |
| 3         | July 14          | $500.00   | 1. Analysis & Results  
2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |  |
| 4         | July 28          | $500.00   | 1. Discussion, Conclusion, Abstract  
2. Mentor report (Satisfactory) |  |
| 5         | No later than August 2, 2017 | $400.00 | 1. Final Research Paper with References  
2. Mentor Acceptance Form |  |
| 6         | August 4         | $400.00   | 1. Oral Research Presentation  
2. McNair Staff or Mentor Report (Satisfactory) |  |

TOTAL (possible) $2,800.00

Student Name: ___________________________  Signature: ___________________________

Mentor Name: ___________________________  Signature: ___________________________

Mentor Name: ___________________________  Signature: ___________________________
Dear faculty mentor:

Please use this form to verify scholar completion of each research milestone. This form is to be completed by the faculty mentor and returned to the McNair Scholars Program Director in Honors Cottage 009, emailed directly to: Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts nievita.watts@uni.edu, or hand-delivered by the scholar, as you prefer.

The McNair Scholars Program Office cannot process or release any Internship Stipend without this form. The form is required for each of Milestones # 1, 2, 3 & 4, and signals your satisfaction and certification that the scholar has completed that research task.

**Milestone #5** requires the Research Acceptance Form
**Milestone #6** will be processed by the McNair Scholars Program Director

Scholar’s Name:

Research Milestone (name and number):

Brief summary of work completed and any additional comments:

Mentor’s Signature:

Date:
MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Summer Research Internship
Research Acceptance Form

Please complete and return to:
Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, Director
McNair Scholars Program
2401 College Street
nievita.watts@uni.edu

INSTRUCTIONS:
I. The McNair Scholar completes the Scholar’s Statement (below) and attaches one copy of the approved final research paper.
II. Mentor approves or disapproves the research paper and signs in the designated space.
III. Mentor approves or disapproves local publication of the research paper and signs in the designated space.
IV. The Mentor transmits this form to the McNair Scholars Program office as soon as possible following the date of the conclusion of the research project and paper.

SCHOLAR’S STATEMENT

Scholar’s Name:

Department and Area of Specialization:

Title of Research Project/Paper:

Mentor’s Name(s):

APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PAPER BY FACULTY RESEARCH ADVISOR
As the faculty mentor I agree that the research paper is acceptable. I further agree that the format and quality are acceptable, and the scholar is competent in the knowledge and techniques required to perform this research. As the faculty mentor I approve the research paper and affirm that the scholar has met the requirements of a scholarly paper under my supervision.

YES, I agree. Please sign and date here:        Date

NO, I do not agree. Please sign and date here:       Date

Continues next page
RELEASE FOR LOCAL PUBLICATION
As the faculty mentor, I agree that the research paper is of high academic quality and scope and
of a style publishable in this field. The paper may be uploaded and displayed on the UNI
McNair website.

YES, I agree. Please sign and date here: Date

NO, I do not agree. Please sign and date here: Date

As the faculty mentor, I agree that the research paper is of high academic quality and scope and
of a style publishable in this field. The paper may be uploaded and displayed on the UNI
McNair ScholarWorks website (maintained by Rod Library).

YES, I agree. Please sign and date here: Date

NO, I do not agree. Please sign and date here: Date

As the faculty mentor, I agree that the research paper is of high academic quality and scope and
of a style publishable in this field. The paper may be added to a collected volume of McNair
Scholar research.

YES, I agree. Please sign and date here: Date

NO, I do not agree. Please sign and date here: Date

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
It is necessary to log the times you worked on your research project. This form must be completed and signed by you. **This signed form is due in the McNair office by 4:00 p.m. each Friday.**

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Comments:

By signing this form, I attest that this information is accurate.

_________________________________________      __________________________
Signature                  Date
Midterm Mentor Evaluation of Scholar
Due Date: Thursday, July 6, 2017 by 4:00 p.m.

Faculty Mentor:

Scholar:

1. Briefly evaluate your Scholar’s performance on their research project since the beginning of the SRI.

2. To your knowledge, has your Scholar put in the time expected (35 hours per week including literature review)?

3. Is the Scholar on track to complete their research project on time?

4. Are there any issues that the McNair Scholars Program Director should be aware of concerning the Scholar and their research project?

5. Would you like to schedule a meeting with the McNair Program Director?

Faculty Mentor Signature

Date
Final Mentor Evaluation of Scholar
Due Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 by 4:00 p.m.

Faculty Mentor:

Scholar:

1. Briefly evaluate your Scholar’s performance on their research project over the nine weeks of the summer.

2. Do you plan to continue working with your Scholar on their research project after the summer ends? _____Yes _____No
   If yes, please describe:
3. Do you have any plans for your Scholar to present the results of their research at a professional meeting?  _____Yes  _____No

If yes, please describe:

4. Do you expect your Scholar to be listed as an author on an article or book chapter as a result of their research work this semester?  _____Yes  _____No

If yes, please describe:

5. Would you be willing to serve as a faculty research mentor for another McNair Scholar during the 2018 summer or in subsequent years?  _____Yes  _____No

If no, please explain:

6. Do you have any other comments about your experience with the McNair Scholars Program?  _____Yes  _____No  If yes, please describe:

Please grade your student’s overall progress to date (used for internal records only):

_____A  (4.0)  _____C  (2.0)
_____A- (3.7)  _____C- (1.7)
_____B+ (3.3)  _____D+ (1.3)
_____B  (3.0)  _____D (1.0)
_____B- (2.7)  _____D- (0.7)
_____C+ (2.3)  _____F  (0.0)

________________________________________  ____________
Faculty Mentor Signature                  Date