

MCNR 300: McNair Research Experience

CRN: 30382 Credit hours: 3 Prerequisite: Current Participant in Winthrop McNair Scholars Program
McNair Scholars may earn up to 6 credit hours for/of MCNR 300.

Class meets: **May 19 – July 11 MTWRF typically 8:30 – 10 am; Exceptions start mid-June and will be announced beforehand. Scholars should work on McNair tasks 8:30 am – noon and 1– 5 pm every weekday.** Class meets in-person in Dinkins 103 most days and in other locations as needed.

Instructor: Dr. Cheryl A. Fortner Ph: 803-323-2125; Fax: 803-323-3125; Em: FortnerC@Winthrop.edu

Dr. Fortner's Office Hours MTWR 10 - 11 am in 104 Dinkins Hall, also by appointment (schedule at <https://calendly.com/cfw/mcnair>). Flash office hours will be added as the need and availability arises. If you have questions about course material, your research, your performance in the program, degree progress, or admissions to graduate programs, please visit me during office hours or make an appointment through temp cards or touching base after class. In addition to the support provided through MCNR 300, Scholars will receive individual advising including, but not limited to, graduate admissions and financial aid assistance. Please seize this opportunity.

Stats and Methods Coach: Dr. Hayes (HayesM@Winthrop.edu) Office hours 10 am – noon MTWR in Dinkins Mondays & Wednesdays and via Zoom Tuesdays & Thursdays

Writing Coach: Stephanie Bartlett (BartlettS@Winthrop.edu) – Office Hours will be TWS in Dinkins Wednesdays 2:45 - 5 pm and via Zoom Tues 7:30-8:30 pm and Saturdays <https://winthrop-edu.zoom.us/j/86583261852?pwd=Si95RFpNb0lOOTN5cWdUT0U0UzN5dz09>

Course Purpose, Description, and Resources

The primary purpose of this course is to prepare McNair Scholars to successfully complete and present high quality research. Class sessions will cover research topics and preparing benchmarks, e.g., literature review, varied research methodologies, statistical analysis, and communicating scholarship in written and verbal forms. Scholars will receive individualized support for their project from their mentor, the course instructor, the Stats & Methods Coach, and the Writing Coach. Another purpose of the course is to provide experiences that will foster student success in the early stages of the graduate admissions process. To this end, Scholars will create/revise their vita, search for and prioritize graduate programs, prepare for graduate admissions evaluations, and learn ways to fund graduate study.

Modifications to this Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus if the needs of the class warrant. Students will be notified of modifications in class and/or via Blackboard/email. All students are responsible for the consequences of modifications regardless of absence from class and/or delays in accessing BB/email.

Accessibility

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access: If you have a condition that may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility at 803-323-3290 or accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me immediately once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Accessibility.

Student code of conduct

As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." Students are required to follow the Student Conduct Code in its entirety in this class and on all university or program business (see <https://www.winthrop.edu/studentconduct/>). Violations of the student conduct code, including but not limited to academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying information) may result in a student receiving an F for this course and removal from the McNair program.

Student Learning Outcomes – The four major student learning outcomes for MCNR 300 are:

1. Students will successfully complete a high quality summer research project or scholarly activity including specific individual project milestones.
1.1. The specific components to be completed and the manner in which the student completes these components will follow appropriate practices in discipline of the Scholar or Faculty Mentor. For example, a scientific research project will include the following components: (Abstract, Intro/Lit review, Methods, Results/Analysis, and Conclusions).
1.2. Students will connect their research and scholarly activities with future graduate experiences.
2. Students will be able to present information effectively using both oral and written modes of communication.
2.1. By the end of the MCNR 300, students will consistently show effective communication in writing samples on a variety of topics.
2.2. By the end of the MCNR 300, students will consistently show effective communication in Oral Presentations.
2.3. Students will provide constructive feedback to their peers and will utilize constructive feedback from peers, mentors, other faculty, the Instructor, and program coaches.
2.4. All students will be prepared to submit a peer-reviewed proposal for a conference or journal as first or second author.
2.5 Seniors will identify at least two publication outlets to submit their research.
3. Students will build quantitative and verbal reasoning skills to be competitive for Graduate Admissions.
3.1. Students will review, learn, and practice mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning strategies that are directly linked to skills necessary to prepare for and succeed in graduate programs (including, but not limited to, quantitative logic, statistics, algebra, geometry, etc.).
3.2. Students will review, learn, and practice verbal reasoning and analytical writing content and strategies that are directly linked to skills necessary to prepare for and succeed in graduate programs (including, but not limited to critical reading, thinking, and writing; reading comprehension, building vocabulary).
3.3 Seniors will identify possible admissions exams for their graduate programs of interest (e.g., GRE, MAT, MCAT, GMAT). All Summer 24 McNair Scholars will register to complete the ETS Graduate Records Exam at the McNair Program's expense.
4. Students will identify appropriate graduate programs in their field of interest, by determining
4.1. Resources that are suitable for finding appropriate graduate programs and how to use those resources,
4.2. Their priorities for graduate programs (fit and match),
4.3. Appropriate graduate fellowships and other graduate school funding opportunities, and
4.4 How to leverage their McNair Research Experience to be competitive graduate applicants.

My Expectations of You

- 1) You will prepare for, attend, and participate in every class.
- 2) You will be an active learner: raising questions, contributing to discussions both in and out of class, utilizing course resources, taking accurate and complete notes, attentively reading assignments, and sharing relevant resources you have found with your classmates. Being an active learner also means engaging in discussions we have in class and that you will not text, email, or talk on your cell phone while in class.
- 3) You will complete all assignments and readings according to the directions, honorably, and on time.
- 4) You will contact me as soon as possible if you have concerns about understanding material, accessing course materials, completing assignments, or your performance in this class.
- 5) You will utilize program staff, your mentor, guest speakers, and the Coaches as resources, as necessary. Take advantage of their accessibility through office hours, appointments, e-mail, Skype, and/or phone.
- 6) You will listen and interact effectively and sensitively with fellow classmates and everyone affiliated with the program, even when someone expresses a viewpoint that is very different from your own.
- 7) You will exhibit academic integrity at all times.
- 8) You will use this syllabus as your roadmap for the course and temperature cards as a way to communicate your needs or concerns.

Attendance

You are responsible for all announcements, material, and discussions that occur during our class. This includes, but is not limited to, information about assignment directions and due dates. You will be expected to complete assignments according to the information I provided during class, regardless of whether you were there to hear it. If you miss class, regardless of the reason, the responsibility rests with you to be sure you are sufficiently informed about what took place. Please take every step possible to avoid inconveniencing others with your absence or need to catch up. I will be tracking attendance in this class. McNair Scholars are expected to make every effort to attend every class meeting and to contact the instructor as soon as possible if he or she anticipates a schedule conflict. Students should not expect class meetings to be recorded. In rare cases when meetings are recorded, they will be captioned and uploaded to Blackboard. Scholars who miss a class meeting are expected to view these recordings. Blackboard allows instructors to track views to determine if students have accessed materials.

Training Materials – Supplies that Support Scholars' Personal Development (CFR 647.30)

You are required to read: 1) all materials your mentor assigns; 2) McNair training materials distributed by the Director including, but not limited to: Dr. McNair's biography - *In the Spirit of Ronald E. McNair: Astronaut, An American Hero* by Carl McNair; and 7) *The Unwritten Rules of Professional Etiquette: Building a Positive Reputation in Graduate School*; 3) articles and other course materials as assigned by your instructor and special speakers; 4) relevant Winthrop and CITI biosafety, animal care and use, and protection of human subjects ethics materials; and 5) an appropriate number and variety of professional and empirical sources found by you in order to be sufficiently informed to successfully complete and present your project.

Electronic Submission of Assignments:

Upload all your assignments to Blackboard, so the Director can easily document that all summer research interns have completed high quality benchmarks throughout the McNair internship. For the research milestones (e.g., ref list, methods, etc.) upload your proof to Blackboard and email the milestones to the Director (fortnerc@winthrop.edu), CCing your Mentor AND our Writing Coach, BartlettS@winthrop.edu. All files should include your name, the milestone, and McNair24 (e.g. "M Moorer Ref List McNair25"). Be sure every document you attach for the Director has a title and your name. Also include a brief email message with salutation, attachment description, and signature lines.

Course Requirements

To earn an A in this class, you must attend class, participate in class discussions, read assigned materials, submit required homework as directed, and complete in-class assignments on time. Points will be deducted for failing to meet any of these criteria. In some cases, assignments will be given an all-or-nothing grade of completed or not (e.g., submitting essays or responding on temperature cards). Failure to submit the assignment on time or as directed will result in a reduced grade or grade of 0.

- (1) **Homework and Assignments (25%).** Expect daily in-class assignments, to be working on your research project every weekday (and sometimes weekends), and to have some homework assignments in addition to project milestones (e.g., reading and presenting on readings or cultural events, vita, top 10 graduate schools, at least three grad funding sources). These oral reports and written assignments will be directly related to what you are doing in the course and/or your research project. I will not intentionally assign any activity that does not help you meet MCNR 300 student learning outcomes. For example, every Friday you will provide an oral update on the progress of your project. Complete all of these assignments thoughtfully, on time, and as directed and you will earn an A for this component of your grade.
- (2) **Research Project Milestones (50%).** Your grade in this course depends primarily on submitting your project milestones on time and as directed. Follow the directions and recommendations of your faculty mentor, the program coaches, and the Director and you will earn an A for this component of your grade. Our coursework will provide you with foundational knowledge. Your mentor, our Coaches, and Dr. F will provide you individualized advice and resources which are tailored to your project and needs. Feedback will be sought from your mentor about your performance and this feedback will be used to inform your grade on this component.

(3) Critical Thinking, Quantitative & Verbal Reasoning (25%). After our research symposium and SAEOPP conference travel, our class will focus on reviewing and building knowledge and skills in quantitative and verbal reasoning. These skills will serve you well as you finish your undergraduate coursework and scholarship, prepare for assessments of your readiness for graduate study (e.g., the Graduate Records Exam), work to show your competitiveness for graduate admissions, and succeed in your graduate programs. Your grade on this component does not depend on your performance on practice tests or activities but it does depend on your effort. Do your best on the assignments and take advantage of the wisdom shared by your instructors and you will earn an A on this component. Please note: No federal funds are used to purchase individual test preparation materials or registrations.

Evaluation of Student Learning

All assignments submitted in accordance with the directions will be scored using letter grades and check marks. To earn an A in this course, you must show that you have achieved all expected learning outcomes listed on page 2 of this document. Because all assignments in the three components assess progress on the four learning outcomes, you must complete all assignments on time and in accordance with the directions. If you have an A average on all three components, you are guaranteed an A in the course. Likewise, you cannot pass the class if you have a failing average on any single component of the course. In cases where a student has not earned As on all components and has not failed a component, the weight for each component (25%, 50%, 25%) will be multiplied by average grade achieved (up to 100%) and the products will be summed to determine the final grade. At the risk of making it sound more complicated than it is, here’s an example:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{Homework} = 25\% \times \text{average grade} = 80\%) + (\text{Research Milestones} = 50\% \times \text{average grade} = 100\%) \\ & + (\text{CTQRV\&R} = 25\% \times 90\%) = (.25 \times .8) + (.5 \times 1.0) + (.25 \times .9) = \\ & (.2) + (.5) + (.225) = .925 \text{ or } 92.5\% = \text{A-} \end{aligned}$$

Grading Scale	90% for A-	87% for B+	80% for B	77% for C+
	93% for A	70% for C	67% for D+	60% for D
				<60%=F

Important points:

- 1) Do not expect late assignments to be graded, but let the instructor know if there are extenuating circumstances you think should be considered.
- 2) Most assignments are graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S=sufficient quality, submission submitted on time).
- 3) You are almost always welcome to turn assignments in early.
- 4) The instructor will collaborate with the writing coach to provide feedback to inform your next steps. Please follow up with the instructor if you are waiting on feedback to move forward.
- 5) It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades and assignments. The Blackboard Grade Center will help students and the instructor do this.
- 6) All students and mentors have access to the updated online course calendar posted in Google Docs.

Winthrop University’s Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination and application process. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of www.winthrop.edu/onca and email onca@winthrop.edu for more information.

Student Advocacy and Trauma Support is committed to providing quality services and advocacy to victims and survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and domestic and dating violence through a concentrated community response. We support and provide programming and education directed at eradicating sexual violence both on campus and in the community (<https://www.winthrop.edu/csw/sats-about-the-office.aspx/>) 803/323-2206.