



**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program**  
**Syllabus for Saturday Lunch and Learn Lectures**

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**Course Description:**

The McNair Scholars Program prepares juniors and seniors for doctoral studies through research and professional development. During the academic year, McNair Scholars are required to meet the first Saturday of each month for a day of skill building and professional development seminars. The sessions are designed to support students at various stages of their undergraduate experience as they navigate their research interests as well as the graduate school application process.

**Lunch and Learn Lecture Dates:**

*Fall 2017*

September 9, 2017  
October 7, 2017  
November 4, 2017  
December 2, 2017

*Spring 2018*

February 3, 2018  
March 3, 2018  
April 7, 2018  
May 5, 2018

**Learning Outcomes:**

Learning Outcomes have been established for each Saturday Lunch and Learn Lecture. A list of overall goals and objectives for student learning is provided below. The lectures will contribute to students being able to:

1. Successfully navigate research conferences, professional meetings/events, research symposia, etc...

2. Make sound decisions regarding identifying and selecting graduate schools
3. Complete and submit all components and requisites for graduate admissions. This may include graduate school applications, personal statements, resume and curriculum vitae, writing samples, requests for letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and the GRE
4. Register and prepare for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
5. Identify and apply for grants, scholarships, and other funding opportunities
6. Identify and apply for internships and external summer research opportunities
7. Budget and monitor personal finances as undergraduate and graduate students

### FALL 2017 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Date	Session Activity
<b>September 9, 2017</b>	<b>Session Theme: Welcome Back and Getting to Know the McNair Family with a Group Hike</b>
10:00am-10:15am	Meet directly at Marie Mount Hall on the side of the building facing the Chapel  Audience: Juniors and Seniors
10:15am-11:00am	Drive to Great Falls
11:00am-12:30pm	Opening Session: Welcome Back, Getting to Know Each Other, and Group Hike at Great Falls Trail  Audience: Juniors and Seniors
12:30pm-1:15pm	Group lunch at Great Falls
1:15pm-2:00pm	Drive back to College Park, MD
<b>October 7, 2017</b>	<b>Session Theme: Completing Graduate School Applications (Seniors)</b>  <b>Discussing Summer Research Opportunities and How to Become a More Competitive Applicant (Juniors)</b>
10:00am-10:15am	Breakfast- Opening Session/Welcome Back
10:15am-11:15am	Learning about Graduate School at UMD <i>Guest Speaker</i> : Christopher Perez  Audience: Juniors and Seniors
11:30am-1:00pm	Working Session: Revisiting the Graduate School Application and Working on Graduate School Applications (e.g., beginning online applications, requesting letters of recommendation, CV/resume, personal statement)

	<p>Application Reviewers: McNair Fellows &amp; Current Doctoral Students</p> <p>Audience: Seniors</p> <p><u>Deliverables for Seniors:</u> Due electronically by the end of Lunch and Learn to Nancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Second draft of Personal Statement</li> <li>➤ CV/resume Draft</li> </ul> <p>Identifying Summer Research Opportunities and How to Become a More Competitive Applicant for Graduate School: Beginning the SROP Search w/ Nana Brantuo</p> <p>Audience: Juniors</p> <p><u>Deliverables for Juniors:</u> Due Electronically by the end of Lunch and Learn to Nancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Word document list of External Summer Research Opportunities you will be applying to along with application due dates (6-8 SROPS)</li> <li>➤ Draft of CV/resume and personal statement</li> </ul>
1:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch and Announcements
1:30pm-2:00pm	SROP Presentations and Kudos Box
<b>November 4, 2017</b>	<p><b>Session Theme: Finalizing Graduate School Applications (Seniors)</b></p> <p><b>Beginning the SROP Application Process (Juniors)</b></p>
10:00am-10:15am	Breakfast- Opening Session/Welcome Back
10:15am-11:15am	<p>Fellowships and Securing Outside Funding for Graduate School</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Leslie Ann Brice, National Scholarships Office</p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p>
11:30pm-1:00pm	<p>Working Session: Identify Fellowships and funding for Graduate School and begin application process and/or complete Graduate School applications (Review and Revision)</p> <p>Audience: Seniors</p> <p><u>Deliverables for Seniors:</u> Due electronically by the end of Lunch and Learn to Nancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ FINAL Draft of Personal Statement</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proof of One Complete Graduate School Application</li> <li>➤ FINAL CV/resume</li> </ul> <p>Working Session: Identify Fellowships and Funding for Graduate School and begin SROP applications (<u>apply to at least 6-8 SROPs</u>)</p> <p>Audience: Juniors</p> <p><u>Deliverables for Juniors:</u> Due electronically by the end of Lunch and Learn to Nancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ FINAL Draft of personal statement for SROP</li> <li>➤ Proof of One Complete SROP application</li> <li>➤ FINAL CV/resume</li> </ul>
1:00pm-2:00pm	Lunch, Kudos Box, and Announcements
<b>December 2, 2017</b>	<b>Session Theme: Cultural Activity: TBD</b>
<b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> (Time subject to change)	Audience: Juniors and Seniors

### SPRING 2018 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Date	Session Activity
<b>February 3, 2018</b>	<b>Session Theme: Finances and Navigating College and Graduate School</b>
10:00am-10:15am	Breakfast- Opening Session/Welcome Back
10:15am-11:15am	<p>Financial Literacy and Preparing for the Future</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Office of Financial Aid (Tentative) <i>Students will work on budgeting, money-saving techniques, financial goals, minimizing debt and savings concepts.</i></p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p>
11:30am-1:00pm	<p>Working Session: Financial Planning for Post-Secondary Education and Preparing for the Future</p> <p>Students will create an iGrad account (<a href="https://www.igrad.com/signup?ReturnURL=%2Fprofile%2Fprofile-edit.aspx">https://www.igrad.com/signup?ReturnURL=%2Fprofile%2Fprofile-edit.aspx</a>) and begin exploring resources/video presentations/webinars on budgeting</p>

	<p>finances for graduate school, information on smart borrowing and the student loan process, good credit decisions, financial preparation for the future, etc... <i>By the end of the session, students will have developed a budget and five-year financial plan for their academic future.</i></p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p> <p><u>Deliverables for Juniors and Seniors:</u> Due electronically by the end of Lunch and Learn to Nancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five-year Budget/Financial Plan</li> </ul>
1:00pm-2:00pm	Lunch, Kudos Box, and Announcements
<b>March 3, 2018</b>	<b>Session Theme: National Conference and Undergraduate Research Preparation</b>
10:00am-11:00am	<p>Lessons in Public Speaking and Networking</p> <p>Giving a presentation people want to hear (body language, communication, appropriate attire), conference networking, and mastering the elevator pitch</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Ms. Tricia Homer (Invited) <i>Office of Transformational Learning Robert H. Smith School of Business</i></p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p>
11:00am-1:30pm	<p>Conference Speakers and Oral Research Presentations: Rehearsal and Feedback Working Session and Reviewing Conference Agenda</p> <p><i>Scholars will briefly rehearse the introduction of their oral presentations (5 minutes maximum) for the upcoming Conference</i></p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p>
1:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch, Kudos Box, and Announcements
<b>April 7, 2018</b>	<b>Session Theme: Giving Back to Your Community</b>
<b>9:00am-1:30pm</b>	<p>A Day of Service</p> <p><i>Good Neighbor Day</i> with the Office of Community Engagement: Beautify shared spaces, educate and engage in sustainable practices, and take pride in the greater community</p>

	Audience: Juniors and Seniors
<b>May 5, 2018</b>	<b>Session Theme: Balancing Work, Life, and School</b>
10:00am-10:15am	Breakfast- Opening Session
10:15am-11:15am	Orientation for New Scholars
11:30am-12:45pm	<p>Graduate Student Panel: Balancing graduate school and life as a graduate student</p> <p>Invited Panel:  Emilia M. Guevara, Department of Anthropology (Invited)  Zachary Castillo, Physics (Confirmed)  Tuesday Barnes, Sociology (Confirmed)  Mark Lockwood, American Studies (Confirmed)</p> <p>Audience: Juniors and Seniors</p>
1:00pm-2:00pm	Lunch and Medal Ceremony for Spring 2017 Graduates, Kudos Box, and Closing Announcements