

University of Southern California, Office of the Provost and Undergraduate Programs  
McNair Scholars Program  
Summer Research Institute & Graduate School Preparation - 2011

**Program Director/Course Instructor:** Dr. Richard Andalon

**Program/Course Description:** A select group of USC Undergraduates (McNair Scholars) participate in an annual Summer Research Institute (SRI), an intense ten-week program designed to promote research skills, graduate school preparation, professional development, and mentorship experiences. During the SRI, McNair Scholars work on research projects that they propose and design under the guidance of faculty mentors and graduate student advisors. Scholars pursue projects in multiple fields, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, public health, and business. Scholars culminate their SRI experiences by completing a final research paper, organizing a Power Point Presentation, and presenting their research at the USC McNair Symposium, a university-wide function. At the end of the SRI, outstanding Scholars are selected and nominated to attend the UC Berkeley McNair Scholars Symposium, a national undergraduate symposium. All Scholars have an opportunity to publish their abstracts in a program-administered undergraduate research journal.

Week 1

**TUESDAY – 5/31/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

12:00 – 2:00 pm - Overview of SRI sessions, activities, expectations, & assignments

2:00 – 3:00 pm - Time management & using your time effectively

3:00 – 3:50 pm - Developing & managing relationships with faculty, advisors, & mentors – GA panel

Troy Hall – BBQ Area

4:30 – 6:30 pm - Cultural enrichment/recreational activity: Group get-together, barbecue, & cohort/team building exercises

**WEDNESDAY – 6/1/2011**

Room #: VKC 111

9:00 – 12:00 pm

– Introduction to argument-based academic writing

– Converting arguments into papers (sections, paragraphs)

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars academic workshops

Topics: Review large group session material & small group material/assignments

Room #: Leavey Library – Learning Room B

3:45 – 4:45 pm – Library research resources & search strategies

**THURSDAY – 6/2/2011**

Room #: VKC 111

9:00 – 12:00 pm

– Identifying your discipline citation format

– Literature review basics: Bibliographing while researching

– Writing the literature review: The nuts n' bolts

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12:00 – 1:30 pm – McNair Scholars Program Sponsored Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm – Undergraduate research, working with faculty advisors, and preparing for graduate school

Note: Please retrieve your GRE preparation materials and Strength Finder 2.0 from GFS 315R  
Note: Literature review due at the beginning of class (6/6/2011 at 9am) and upload to Blackboard.usc.edu by June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 by 11:59 pm

Week 2

**MONDAY – 6/6/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- Literature review due at the beginning of class
- Research Methods: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods
- How to form, test, and write about research questions and hypotheses in each
- Writing Workshop: Grammar and sentence quality control

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**TUESDAY – 6/7/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 10:30 am – Getting to know your strengths (academic, personal, and professional): Strength Finder 2.0

10:30 – 12:00 pm – Learning from your successful peers: McNair Scholar Alumni Panel

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

FRIDAY – 6/10/2011 – UPLOAD METHODS, RESEARCH QUESTION, AND HYPOTHESES TO BLACKBOARD.USC.EDU (The abstract is not the same as the introduction)

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Week 3

**MONDAY - 6/13/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- Research data collection common procedures and research ethics
- Research data analysis procedures, writing findings and ethical standards

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**TUESDAY – 6/14/2011**

Room #: GFS 223

Graduate School Preparation Topical Sessions

9:00 – 10:15 am – Developing an outline of a Personal Statement & Statement of Purpose

10:15 – 12:15 pm – Preparing for graduate school– 1) The relationship of the Masters degree to the PhD: Key differences and interactions with faculty at the graduate school level; and 2) Tips and strategies for searching and applying to graduate schools (Graduate student panel)

12:00 – 1:15 pm – McNair Scholars Sponsored lunch session

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

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Week 4

**MONDAY – 6/20/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- Writing the statement of purpose and personal statement for graduate school
- Writing workshop with thematic groups

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: 154

**TUESDAY – 6/21/2011**

Room #: VKC 207

9:00 – 9:45 am – Preparing for career and acquiring professional development: USC Career Center: Services and Resources

9:50 – 11:00 am – Exploring graduate school and professional opportunities: Graduate school options and timeline

11:00 – 12:20 pm – Utilizing Tuckman’s group dynamics theory: Understanding and maximizing the most of group experiences

12:20 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

SUNDAY – 6/26/2011 – UPLOAD STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PERSONAL STATEMENT, AND CV TO  
BLACKBOARD.USC.EDU

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Week 5

**MONDAY – 6/27/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- Striking gold: Writing about your findings and the discussion section
- Conclusions: Dealing with loose ends and directions for future research

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**TUESDAY – 6/28/2011**

9:00 – 12:00 pm – Engaging in Data Collection, Analysis, and Discussion (McNair Graduate Advisors)

Session A – Qualitative Methods Workshop – Room # VKC 156

Session B – Quantitative Methods Workshop – Room # VKC 160

Session C – Scientific Methods Workshop – Room # VKC 207

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

MONDAY – 7/4/2011 – UPLOAD INITIAL DATA FINDINGS, DATA DISCUSSION, AND INTRODUCTION TO  
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WEEK 6

**MONDAY – 7/4/2011**

Fourth of July - University Holiday

**TUESDAY – 7/5/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

– Writing your paper abstract and introduction

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**WEDNESDAY – 7/6/2011**

Room #: VKC 111

9:00 – 12:00 pm

– Bringing it all together: Working through your research, organizing and analyzing data, and developing findings

12:00 – 1:30 pm: Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

**THURSDAY – 7/7/2011**

4:00 – 6:00 pm, Cultural enrichment/recreational activity: Group get-together, barbecue, & cohort/team building exercises with USC Summer Bridge and USC McNair Scholars students  
Troy Hall Recreation Area

FRIDAY – 7/15/2011 – UPLOAD FULL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER TO BLACKBOARD.USC.EDU

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WEEK 7

**MONDAY – 7/11/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm – Special sessions and discussions with USC faculty members

- Faculty members: TBD

12:00 – 1:30 pm: Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**TUESDAY – 7/12/2011**

Room #: WPH 205

Understanding available scholarships, fellowships, and other enrichment opportunities

9:00 – 9:30 am – Office of Undergraduate Programs, Provost Office

9:30 – 10:00 am – Undergraduate research funding opportunities for Dornsife students

10:00 am – 10:45 am – Academic Recognition Programs, Undergraduate Programs

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Graduate school funding opportunities

11:30 – 1:30 pm: Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:30 pm - GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

SUNDAY – 7/15/2011 – UPLOAD DRAFT OF ABSTRACT, FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, & CONCLUSION TO  
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WEEK 8

**MONDAY – 7/18/2011**

Room #: VKC 154

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- Oral presentations, Mannerism, Body Language, Writing, Emailing, and Interviewing
- Effective PowerPoint Presentations: Preparing for the SRI Symposium
- Academic Professionalism and Etiquette: Networking, Conferences, and Mannerisms

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

1:30 – 5:00 pm – GRE preparation course

Room #: VKC 154

**TUESDAY – 7/19/2011**

Room #: TTH 119

9AM – 12PM

- Independent study, meetings with faculty advisors, and wrapping-up research paper

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Individual lunch break

Breakout Session Room #: Various

1:30 – 3:00 pm – GA – Scholars Academic Workshops

Topics: Review Large Group Session Material & Small Group Material/Assignments

**FRIDAY – 7/22/2011 – UPLOAD FINAL ABSTRACT\*  
TO BLACKBOARD.USC.EDU**

**(\*Note: Abstract may NOT exceed 250 words)**

**FRIDAY – 7/22/2011 – UPLOAD FINAL DRAFT OF  
RESEARCH PAPER TO BLACKBOARD.USC.EDU**



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WEEK 9

**Monday – 7/25/2011**

Room #: VKC 151

Practicing your research project presentations: Preparing for the SRI Symposium

9:00 – 12:00 pm

- American Studies & Ethnicity
- Education & Policy Development
- Communication & Social Media Studies

12:00 – 1:30 pm – McNair Scholars Program Sponsored Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 pm

- Biological Sciences & Public Health Policy
- Humanities & International Studies

**Tuesday – 7/25/2011**

Room #: VKC 151

10:00 – 12:00 pm: The final wrap-up meeting with McNair Scholars staff

- Final question and answer about symposium
- Program evaluation
- Group photos
- Catered lunch
- UC Berkeley and Claremont Graduate University conference discussion

EMAIL FINAL RESEARCH POWERPOINT  
by 7/27/2011 5:00PM (PST).

**THURSDAY 7/28/2011**  
**USC McNair Scholars Symposium**  
**USC Davidson Center**

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WEEK 10 – INDEPENDENT STUDY (August 1– 5, 2011)

FRIDAY – 8/5/2011 DISBURSEMENT OF FINAL STIPEND\*

\*FRIDAY – 8/5/2011 –

SUBMIT the following 7 items to the McNair Scholars Program Office

- 1) FINAL ABSTRACT (Maximum of 250 words)
- 2) RESEARCH PAPER (Paper range 17 to 25 pages without references)
- 3) POWERPOINT
- 4) PERSONAL STATEMENT
- 5) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
- 6) CURRICULUM VITAE
- 7) GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION TIMELINE

MOVE OUT OF TROY HALL BY 8/10/2011 - - - 5:00 pm