



Wayne State University McNair Scholars Program

RESEARCH GUIDELINES

Students and mentors work on various research projects. While outcomes vary, the steps are generally the same and students should participate in most, if not all of them. The steps are as follows:

- Research Design
- Review of the literature
- Testing of the Hypothesis
- Conclusions

TIME COMMITMENT

Undergraduates are expected to work a minimum of 20 hours per week for 8–12 weeks on research during the Summer Research Institute. Students can undertake their project as part of an independent or directed study under the supervision of their faculty mentor.

LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

Given a relatively short time commitment, the outcome of the final paper should be 10-12 pages- not including cover page.

BENEFITS

- Students learn research methodology in their discipline and come to understand expectations common to graduate study and professional life beyond it.
- Research projects often distinguish applicants for graduate programs.
- Students who have directed independent study courses as a part of their work in their major are generally looked on more favorably in the application process.
- Through close contact with the mentor, the student should be able to receive a more detailed letter of recommendation.
- The research project may be presented as a part of a research forum or conference, or published in the program research journal.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The proposal is a 1-2 page document that includes the title, research goal – project aims, background of study in previous research, significance to field of study and research design.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

At the mid-point of the research experience, each scholar must submit a review of the literature or provide background information concerning the research topic. The purpose of the literature review is to present themes or ideas that have been developed based on the books and materials in previous research, ultimate goal of your project including what is lacking or missing, identify controversies in the literature, and formulate questions for why it needs to be done. This document will be due before and also as part of your final paper.

ABSTRACT

A 200-500 word research abstract will be due before and also as part of your final paper. The purpose of the abstract is to provide a brief summary of a research article. Abstracts are typically sectioned logically as an overview of what appears in the paper (e.g. Background, Introduction, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions.)

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

A 10-12 page paper summarizing the research will be due. Scholars should consult their mentors about the paper. The paper's style must be in APA, MLA, or used by scholarly journals in the scholar's field of study. This paper should be double spaced, saved in Word 97-03, and include the following:

Approval Page

-Mentor's Signature

Cover Page

-Title

-Date

-Scholar's name and major

-Faculty Mentor's name and field

Abstract

250-300-word summary of research

Contents

-Introduction including Background/Literature Review

-Methods

-Results/Findings

-Discussion/Conclusions

-References

Papers that do not adhere to these standards will not be accepted. Papers must be approved by signature of the faculty mentor before submission to the WSU McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Program will withhold the last research stipend until the scholar submits a satisfactory paper.

McNair Scholars should submit all completed materials to mcnair1@wayne.edu unless otherwise specified.

Students should save a copy of their final project to include as part of their application for graduate school or a professional position. The faculty mentor should also be given a copy as a courtesy.