INTR 404: McNair Graduate School Transition Seminar
Fall 2012

Course Details	**Course Format**
Thursdays 5:30-6:30 Morrill Hall 202	One Credit Pass/Fail

Instructor
Vicki Trier, Ph.D.
McNair Program Director
Morrill Hall Room 207
885-6753
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Text and Materials Provided
- Graduate Admissions Essays (Asher)
- Readings as assigned

Requirements
- Attend all class meetings
- Complete and submit 5 graduate school applications
- Meet regularly with the McNair Program Director
- **Please bring your laptop or flash drive with you to every class.**

Attendance
You must attend every class meeting and must give prior notice to the instructor if you will need to be absent.

Purpose of the Course
Staying on track with your graduate school applications during the busy fall semester can be challenging. This course is designed to help you assess your educational and career path, rediscover your strengths, and to give you a more structured and supportive environment to complete applications to the schools you actually want to attend, rather than waiting until the last minute and having to settle for a second choice. Since finances are always a concern, you'll also be finding potential fellowships to allow you to chose the program you want and planning a budget for both the application process and budgets for each of the schools you'd like to attend.

Assignments
Your assignments this semester are simple; by the end of the class you will have at least five graduate school application drafts (at least one to a PhD program) and at least five fellowship applications drafts. I've suggested readings for particular class sessions. These are designed to enhance your learning but no responses are required.

Professional Conference Attendance and Graduate School Visits
You should try to visit at least one graduate school and attend at least one professional conference this academic as part of your requirements for class. If you can do an oral or poster presentation, that would be best. You can visit a school in fall or spring (after you've been accepted) but you should turn in a plan for your visits during this class.

Meetings with Instructor
In order to address your personal needs and requirements, you are required to meet with Vicki at least three (3) times over the course of the semester. Monica can schedule appointments for you.

Date	Topics	Assignments Due
August 23	Back to Basics • Letting go of old baggage • Recognizing and developing strengths • Facing Fears Planning for Success!	Due today • Five (5) Application trackers • Application Budget
August 30	Application Review • Components • Applying online • Letters of Recommendation • GRE Scores	Due today • Update application trackers Readings • Asher Chps. 1-3
September 6	Fellowships and Financial Aid • What will that school really cost • Financial Aid options • Plan for applying for fellowships • Negotiating Assistantships	Due today • Update 5 Graduate School Application Trackers Readings • Asher Chps. 4-7
September 13	Work Day • Bring ALL application materials with you for review by others • Review Financial Aid Resources page on McNair Website: note Incentives list for McNair Scholars	Due today • Drafts of five fellowship applications • Drafts of Applications
September 20	Managing Graduate School Life: Planning Your First Year • Locating Resources on Campus • Communication is the key to success • Becoming a colleague • Staying on track	Due today • Updated Application Trackers • Complete Budget forms Readings • Asher pp. 70-71
September 27	Relationship Building: What is your Support System • What are current strengths • What will you need • Keeping an open mind • Self Care	Due today • Updated drafts
October 4	Staying Motivated During Senior Year • Grades are Still Important • Don't Overload • Submit Your Applications! • Plan B	Due today • Updated drafts of all materials
October 11	Finish Up Applications for Submission	Due today • Final drafts of all applications