

Please interview three faculty members in your field of interest or fields similar to that which you would like to explore in graduate school. Make a list of questions (no less than five) specific to you and your research interests. Remember, the goal of this exercise is not only to gain a further understanding about the graduate school process; it is also an opportunity to build relationships with faculty in your area of interest.

You should begin the conversation by informing the faculty member about:

- The purpose of the McNair Achievement Program
- Your area of interest for graduate school
- The list of schools you are thinking about for graduate school.

Use the following questions as a guide for what to ask, but feel free to add questions of your own:

- Name, department, research interests
- Where did you receive your doctorate?
- How did you decide where to do your PhD?
- What has earning a PhD meant to you?
- What was the most difficult aspect of completing your doctorate?
- What professional associations would benefit a student looking to attend graduate school?
- What are some names of journals that I should begin to explore?
- What scholars do you recommend I read?
- What should I be doing right now to increase my chances of getting accepted into graduate school?
- What graduate schools would you recommend I explore based on my research interests?
- If I could have one book in my collection for graduate school, what would that book be?

**Following the interviews you must complete a 3-page report summarizing your interview experience.**

You can get the names of faculty from the department office or department web site. Look for faculty with similar research interests. If you are having trouble, be sure to ask Vicki. Sometimes you can find faculty in other departments who might be conducting research that matches your interests.

The best way to speak with a faculty member is to set up an appointment either via e-mail or telephone. Please be sure to introduce yourself and let them know that you are in the McNair Achievement Program and are eventually going to pursue a Ph.D./graduate degree. Explain that you would enjoy speaking with them about some questions that you have concerning the field and about graduate school.

You may or may not choose to ask any of your interviewees to be your faculty mentor. We will talk about this during your individual meetings.