

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Degree Program

Guidelines for Defense of Research
Effective June 1, 2009

Researchers are responsible for defending their research ideas, methods, findings, conclusions, recommendations and other conceptual and analytic choices related to their work. The McNair Scholars Program is, therefore, responsible for teaching participants, our future researchers and scholars, how to defend their work visually and orally. "Defense of Research" occurs whenever researchers are probed about their work; the venue or style of the defense is minor compared to researchers' capacity and ability to defend their work. Therefore, effective with the 2009 Summer Research Institute class, the term "Defense of Research" will be used instead of more common terms such as "oral presentations," "poster presentations," or "oral defense." Defense of Research is open to the public and may include a panel asking questions.

- All scholars must do a defense of research as a culminating activity to completing either the Summer Research Institute or research activities outside of the Institute. For example, if a scholar is unable to participate during the summer, the scholar must still conduct a research project at some point during the project year (September 1-October 30) and must experience a defense of research.
- All scholars must develop a PowerPoint of research.
- All scholars must develop a Poster Board of research.
- All scholars must complete a research proposal by an established deadline.
- All scholars must complete a paper by an established deadline even if findings are preliminary or incomplete.
- The length of defense of research will vary and will be communicated per year, but scholars should anticipate 5, 10, or 15-minute presentations with 5-10 minutes of questions and answers.

Guidelines for PowerPoint Presentation

- Must be readable, crisp and clear, attractive (i.e., use color, appropriate graphics).
- Must include **summaries** of purpose, research questions, significance, methods, instruments, findings, conclusions, recommendations, references and other pertinent information at the scholar's discretion (e.g., acknowledgements, unanticipated findings, challenges).
- Must include a first slide with:
 - Name of Scholar, Name of Major
 - University of Maryland McNair Scholars Program
 - Name of Mentor(s)
 - Date
- Must include a last slide with:
 - Contact information for scholar
- Must be submitted by established deadline.

Guidelines for Poster Boards

- Scholars should ask their departments to support costs for printing the poster; however, the program will provide poster boards at no cost.
- Must be readable, crisp and clear, attractive (i.e., use color, appropriate graphics).
- Must include **summaries** of purpose, research questions, significance, methods, findings, conclusions, recommendations and other pertinent information at the scholar's discretion (e.g., references, acknowledgements).
- Must include name of scholar, name of major; University of Maryland McNair Scholars Program; name of mentor(s); and contact information for scholar.
- Must be submitted by established deadline.