The purpose of the Summer Research Program is to introduce McNair Scholars to the rigor, academic discipline, and focus of graduate and doctoral study. The McNair Scholars are expected to complete their research projects by the deadline 20___. We understand that “life happens,” it’s unpredictable and sometimes challenging for a McNair Scholar to complete his or her summer research project by the deadline. For this reason, the following policy was created. McNair Scholars may utilize this recourse ONLY in extenuating circumstances. Examples of **EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES** may include the following:

- Death in the family (immediate)
- Family or personal illness
- Accidents
- Unexpected complexity of the research project making the completion difficult and challenging
- Scholar and the faculty mentor encounter unusual circumstances in gathering/collecting data
- Faculty mentor has a family or personal illness
- Faculty mentor will travel extensively during the summer (both mentor and Scholar must document each email, meeting, phone conversation, etc.)
- Faculty mentor was unable to provide guidance, support, and motivation consistently and regularly due to unforeseen circumstances
- Composition or editing challenges

**Extenuating Circumstances do not include:**

- Inability to prioritize
- Procrastination
- Poor time management
- Deficient study and research habits
- Unrealistic research project/subject
- Lack of follow-up and follow-through
- Lack of personal and academic motivation
- Lack of discipline
- Lack of drive and focus
- Work/employment responsibilities
- Taking more than 6 semester hours during the summer (we discourage students from taking summer courses to devote all their time and resources to research)
*Starting the summer 2012, the McNair Scholars Program will allow one extension of summer research to each Scholar because of an extenuating circumstance(s). The extension will run from August through the end of September. There will be no second extension. No exceptions.*

**Guidelines for an Extension**

Scholars wanting to apply for a First and only Extension are required to comply with the following requirements:

a. **Eligibility:** A Scholar is eligible to apply for an extension if he or she has made normal progress on research project. Normal progress is defined as having completed the proposed benchmarks up to that point.

b. **Application:** An application for the extension must be completed before July 2012. The application will be reviewed by the McNair Staff.

c. **Conference:** The McNair Staff will meet with the Scholar to discuss the specifics and the merits of the application. A decision will be made immediately.

d. **The First and only Extension process should be completed within three working days from the day of receiving the application.**

e. **If the Scholars is unable to complete his or her project at the end of the First Extension and if there are no additional extenuating circumstances, then the scholars will be evaluated and he or she will have to reimburse (100%) their summer stipend to the program that was already received.**