FEP 250 B1: McNair Scholars Graduate School Application Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Truesdell  
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Time: Mondays 6:00-8:00pm (first module)  
Office Hours: By Appointment, South College Second Floor  
Location: Science Building 201  
Units: .25

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to help Senior McNair Scholars navigate graduate school and post-B.A. applications. Throughout the seven weeks of this course we will focus on developing your personal statement and CV/resume through a series of exercises, along with working on professional development skills and funding.

Course Objectives:
1 – Create a personal statement and CV/resume that can be used for various applications  
2 – Hone in on career paths that are suitable for each Scholar  
3 – Complete AT LEAST 3 applications (graduate school and/or post-B.A. programs)  
4 – Learn key professional development skills that will aid in success post-BA.

Class Expectations:
As a student in this course you are expected to show up to ALL classes on time. Cell phones and headphones are not permitted during class time. All work must be done beforehand. As this class will involve Scholars reading each other’s work, it is expected feedback given is done from a professional standpoint.

Grading:
You are graded for this course. Grading is dependent upon your ability to complete all assignments on time. To obtain a 4.0 one must complete ALL assignments on time, attend ALL classes, and participate in class discussions as needed. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a lower grade.

This class will require you to do work, as the application process is time consuming. As a McNair Scholar we expect you all to be applying to programs best suited for you, and therefore expect you to put in the time and effort to have these applications completed and submitted to the best of your ability.

Application and Transcript Fees:
All Scholars are encouraged to apply to schools with McNair Application Fee Waivers (link to list of schools can be found on the Beloit College McNair website). If a school does not offer this, then you are to call and see if they have a low-income waiver (we do not do this for you). We cannot guarantee we can pay for any application fees, and we cannot pay for transcripts – this is due to budget cuts. If you must apply to a school that does not have an application waiver you can request funds from McNair, but this is subject to availability of funds, up to the discretion of the Director, and based on current performance in school and overall participation in the program.
Course Materials: (McNair provides)


Assignments: All assignments should be completed before the start of the next class. NOTE: The exercises in the workbook are to help you figure out the best trajectory for you. I am not going to require that you do every single one of them, but by the end of the semester I do want you to have filled in the petal, as it is intended to help you figure out the next stage of your lives after Beloit.

Outline of Course:
Before August 26th – Select 4-8 schools/programs you intend to apply for. Have this emailed me to the morning of the 26th by NOON, if not beforehand. For each selection include the school, the department, and the name(s) of the professor(s) who you are interested in working with. If you have programs you are interested in list the programs and area (ex. For Peace Corp you would name which area of the world and/or what type of work you would like to do). Also, list 3-4 professors/staff who you plan on asking recommendation letters from.

August 26th – Introductions. The graduate application time line: picking the right program for you, taking the GRE, creating a Graduate School/Post BA Programs Application Folder, asking for recommendations.
Assignment: Petal 1 and 2 exercise in workbook. Chapters 1-3 Don Asher. Start to compile your graduate school/post BA program folders to hand out to faculty you are asking for recommendation letters from – bring to individual meetings.

September 2nd – NO CLASS. Must set up individual meetings with Dr. Truesdell that week to go over materials.
Assignment: Petal 3 exercise in workbook. Chapter 4 in Don Asher. Revise you list of schools as needed, fix folders, create spreadsheet of due dates/requirements/materials for each school or program.

September 7th-8th – First weekend of GRE prep. Note: Only take this course if you plan on taking the GRE this fall and need the GRE for programs you are applying for.

September 9th – Creating the CV/Resume. Guest Lecture by Jessica Fox-Wilson
Assignment: Petal 4 exercise in workbook. Chapter 5 in Don Asher – use the questions asked in the chapter to help you to start thinking about your personal statement. Write down those answers that you feel will help you in your first draft. Draft your Resume and/or CV to hand in next class. Make copies of each for the class.

September 14th-15th - Second weekend of GRE prep
September 16th – Feedback on Resume/CVs, writing the first draft of the personal statement, contacting professors and visiting schools.
   Assignment: Petal 5 exercise in workbook. Chapter 6 in Don Asher. Make copies of the draft of the personal statement to hand out in class. Start to revise your CVs and Resumes.

September 23rd – Revising the draft: feedback from students, budgeting for life after Beloit
   Assignment: Petal 6 exercise in workbook. Chapters 7 and 8 in Don Asher. Revise personal statements and CV/Resume and make copies for the class.

September 30th – Putting it all together: feedback on materials and tips on succeeding in graduate school.
   Assignment: Petal 7 exercise in workbook. Chapters 7 and 8 in Don Asher.

October 7th – Last day of class. Talking about funding and next steps.
   Assignment: Have complete copies of full applications to hand in along with “The Flower” page complete with a copy to turn in.

NOTE:
1) This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

2) We will have 1-2 graduate application lock-ins on a Sunday night in November and December (the latter one will be as needed) in South College. Also, I am available throughout the semester to help with questions and issues in this process.