



Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities

The Autism Consortium of Texas (ACT) LEND seeks to train graduate students, practicing professionals, family members, and self-advocates in culturally-informed diagnosis, support, and advocacy for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities throughout the Capital Region and Central Texas.

Apply Today

- 9-month program
- Includes coursework, seminars, research and presentation opportunities
- Mentorship
- Hands-on experiences in clinical or community-based settings
- Stipends available

LEND Core Disciplines

Applied Behavioral Analysis
Audiology
Family Leadership
Medicine
Nursing
Psychology
Self-advocacy
Social Work
Special Education
Speech-Language Pathology

Applicants should be graduate students enrolled in one of the core disciplines (or related disciplines) at The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, or Texas State during the 2024-2025 school year or be a self-advocate or family member of a person with autism or a related developmental disability.

**For more information, please visit:
<https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/act-lend>**





*A collaboration
between: The University of
Texas at Austin and
Baylor University*

ACT LEND Graduate Student Long-Term Trainee Information

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs provide long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities (ASD/DD). The program accomplishes this by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and obtain high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024-2025 ACT LEND Program as a Long-Term Trainee (LTT) at The University of Texas at Austin. Enclosed please find program information and application instructions. LTT applicants must be a graduate student enrolled in one of the core disciplines (or related disciplines) at The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, or Texas State during the 2024-25 school year. LTTs will also include family members and self-advocates. Each trainee will complete 300 hours of training and will receive a stipend totaling \$9,000. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Applicants may be requested to attend a brief online interview before acceptance decisions are made. Successful applicants to the ACT LEND program will be notified by June 3, 2024. **Applications are due by Friday, March 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.**

ACT LEND Program Requirements

The Autism Consortium of Texas (ACT) LEND is based at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin, in partnership with Baylor University. Through the ACT LEND Program, we seek to train graduate students, practicing professionals, family members and self-advocates in culturally-informed diagnosis, support, and advocacy for children with ASD/DD throughout the Capital Region and Central Texas.

Long-Term Trainees (LTTs) in this 9-month program must complete a minimum of 300 didactic and experiential contact hours. This includes coursework, seminars, research and presentation opportunities, mentorship, and hands-on experiences in clinical or community-based settings. All classes and seminars will be held on-site at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas, at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin, at Field sites (days/times TBA), and/or virtually via video conferencing. In-person attendance (when offered) is required unless other arrangements are made. However, Baylor students may attend some events virtually but will also be required to attend some events in person.

Curriculum and Training Requirements for LTTs

- ❖ Mandatory all-day ACT LEND Orientation during the week of mid-August 2024 (TBA)
- ❖ Fall Course (Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Bi-weekly Clinical Sessions (alternate Fridays 2-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Bi-weekly Spring Leadership Trainings (alternate Fridays 2-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Spring Weekly Seminars (day/time TBA)
- ❖ A 100-hour clinical or community practicum (distinct from your graduate program internship)
- ❖ Monthly meetings with your discipline training coordinator (includes development of an individualized learning plan)
- ❖ Leadership conferences and workshops (days/times TBA)
- ❖ Meeting with a family or self-advocate mentor (minimum of 4 times/year)
- ❖ Engagement in a research or evaluation project
- ❖ Poster presentation of ACT LEND project on practicum or research activities at the end-of-year Open House held in May 2025

The following documents will be required for the online application:

- **ACT LEND Short Essay Topics:** Please upload an essay of 2-3 pages combined that addresses the following topics.
 1. Please describe your experiences with individuals with ASD/DD. These may be personal or professional experiences.
 2. Please describe your career goals, and how the ACT LEND training will assist you in achieving these goals.
 3. Please discuss how your area of study addresses or supports the needs of the ASD/DD population.
 4. Please describe your experiences working with diverse populations. This may be reflective of your own identity and experiences, or volunteer/work experiences with diverse groups.
- **Undergraduate Transcripts (unofficial transcripts accepted)**
- **Resume/CV**
- **References:** Please upload 2-3 letters of reference from individuals not related to you. At least one should be a faculty member in your program of study indicating that you will be able to commit to the program requirements. References should include contact information, length of time known, nature of relationship, and any other information that may be relevant in the selection process.

To complete the online application, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ACTLEND-Gradapp-2024>

If you require assistance or have further questions, please contact:

Program Director Dr. Sandy Magaña or

Administrative Program Coordinator Leslie Jackson, MSW

at ACTLEND@utexas.edu