



## 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 for some trainees

### 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 or Baylor University 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:  
<http://tinyurl.com/applyactlend>**

## ACT LEND LTT Family Member Applications due March 25th, 2024

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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 at The University of Texas at Austin. Enclosed please find program information and application instructions. Family applicants must be a family member of a person with autism or a developmental disability. This can include being a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative. Family long-term trainees will participate in 300 hours of training alongside full-time graduate students from the core disciplines listed below. Each cohort or team of long-term trainees will also include at least one person with a disability (self-advocate). All long-term trainees will receive \$9000 to complete 300 hours of training. Family members can complete the 300 hours over one or two years. Family members do not have to have a degree or be a graduate student in the core disciplines. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Please visit our website if you would like more information:

<https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/act-lend>

### ACT LEND Core Disciplines

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ❖ <i>Applied Behavioral Analysis</i> | ❖ <i>Psychology</i>                |
| ❖ <i>Audiology</i>                   | ❖ <i>Self-advocacy</i>             |
| ❖ <i>Family Leadership</i>           | ❖ <i>Social Work</i>               |
| ❖ <i>Medicine</i>                    | ❖ <i>Special Education</i>         |
| ❖ <i>Nursing</i>                     | ❖ <i>Speech-Language Pathology</i> |

**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.**

## ACT LEND Program Requirements

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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 Long-Term Trainees:

- ❖ Mandatory 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.)
- ❖ Spring weekly seminars (days/times TBA)
- ❖ A 100-hour clinical or community practicum
- ❖ Monthly meetings with your discipline training coordinator (including development of an individualized learning plan)
- ❖ Leadership conferences and workshops (days/times TBA)
- ❖ Meeting with a family 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:

**Short Essay:** Please attach a 1-3 page essay describing your experiences as a family member of a person with autism or other intellectual or developmental disability (ASD/DD). Please include:

- Any leadership, community, or advocacy experiences related to ASD/DD that you have had
- Your plans for applying your LEND training to support others including self-advocates, family members, and practicing professionals who support people with ASD/DD

**Reference:** One letter of reference from someone not related to you. The reference could be a professional or academic reference; a teacher or other support professional who works with your family member who has ASD/DD; or another person in the community who is familiar with your interest in ASD/DD leadership development. Letters should include contact information, length of time known, nature of relationship, and any other information that may be relevant in the selection process.

Applications are due by March 25th, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

**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.**

**To complete the online application, please go to:**

**<http://tinyurl.com/ACTLEND-FamilyApp-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](mailto:ACTLEND@utexas.edu)***