



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

ACT LEND Long-Term Trainee Application Due April 16, 2021

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 2021-2022 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 full-time graduate student enrolled in one of the core disciplines at The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, or Texas State University during the 2021-2022 school year. LTTs will also include family members and self-advocates. Eleven LTTs will be selected; each trainee will complete 300 hours of training and will receive a stipend totaling \$9,000. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

ACT LEND Core Disciplines

- ❖ *Applied Behavioral Analysis*
- ❖ *Audiology*
- ❖ *Family Leadership*
- ❖ *Law*
- ❖ *Medicine*
- ❖ *Nursing*
- ❖ *Physical Therapy*
- ❖ *Psychology*
- ❖ *Self-advocacy*
- ❖ *Social Work*
- ❖ *Special Education*
- ❖ *Speech-Language Pathology*

Application Checklist:

- Completed ACT LEND Application
- Undergraduate transcripts (unofficial accepted)
- Signed acknowledgement of program requirements
- Completed essay questions
- Two letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member at your graduate program indicating that you will be able to fulfill requirements)
- Resume/CV

Please note, this program is pending funding from the federal government.

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 and Texas State 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 Austin and/or virtually via video conferencing. Clinical or community practica, conferences, and workshops will be held in-person and/or virtually as conditions allow.

Curriculum and Training Requirements for LTTs

- ❖ Mandatory all-day ACT LEND Orientation during the week of August 16, 2021 (TBA)
- ❖ Fall Course (Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Bi-weekly clinical sessions (days/times TBA)
- ❖ Spring weekly seminars (Thursday afternoons/evenings, time TBA)
- ❖ A 100-hour clinical or community practicum (distinct from your graduate program internship)
- ❖ 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 on May 6, 2022

Acknowledgement of Program Requirements

I understand the program requirements of the ACT LEND Program. If selected, I understand that attendance at all events is required, and that absences for professional conflicts or illness must be approved by ACT LEND faculty. I understand that failure to complete the program requirements may result in removal from the ACT LEND Program, and may require any already-distributed stipends to be returned to ACT LEND. Surveys at the 2, 5, and 10-year mark will be sent after program completion. I will complete the required follow-up surveys.

By signing below, I agree to the conditions of the ACT LEND Program requirements.

Signature

Date

ACT LEND Long Term Trainee Graduate Student Application

Contact Information

Name: _____

Local Address: _____

Permanent Address (if different from Local): _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

What is the best way to contact you? Email Cell Phone Home Phone

Demographic Information

Gender: Male Female Nonbinary Other : _____

U.S. Citizen? Yes No

Texas Resident? Yes No

Ethnicity Hispanic/Latino Not Hispanic/Latino

Race: Black or African American White Asian Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

American Indian/Alaska Native Other : _____

Languages Spoken: _____

Fluency: _____

Current Degree Program

College/University: _____

GPA: _____

Program/s of Study: _____

Anticipated Degree: M.A. M.S. M.S.W./M.S.S.W. M.Ed. Ph.D. Other

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

ACT LEND Short Essay Topics

Please address each of the following topics and attach to this application. Essays should be limited to 2-3 pages combined.

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.

Transcripts

Please attach a copy of your undergraduate transcripts (unofficial transcripts accepted).

Resume/CV

Please attach a copy of your resume or curriculum vitae.

References

Please attach two letters of reference, and provide their contact information below. 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. Letters should include contact information, length of time known, nature of relationship, and any other information that may be relevant in the selection process.

Name:	_____	Email:	_____
Agency or Institution:	_____	Job Title:	_____
Name:	_____	Email:	_____
Agency or Institution:	_____	Job Title:	_____

Please return application materials by April 16, 2021, 11:59 p.m. to:

ACT LEND Leadership Team

Email: ACTLend@utexas.edu

Please save and attach your completed application as a single PDF, using the format:
ACTLEND_LastName_FirstName_LTT_application .

You will receive a confirmation email when your application is received.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Dr. Sandy Magaña, Program Director or

Kate Fitzpatrick, Program Coordinator

Email: ACTLend@utexas.edu