



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

ACT LEND LTT Family Member Applications due May 3, 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 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

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

Family Member Application Checklist:

- Completed ACT LEND Application
- One letter of recommendation
- Signed acknowledgement of program requirements
- Completed short essay

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
- ❖ Monthly meetings with your discipline training coordinator (including development of an individualized learning plan). You will have a family discipline coordinator.
- ❖ 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, but can be completed over a 2-year period. 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 Fellowship program requirements.

Signature

Date

ACT LEND Long Term Trainee Family Member Application Form

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

As a family member, what is your relationship to a person with autism or a developmental disability?

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: _____

Highest Level of Education Completed

Please note: a high school diploma or college degree is not required for LEND trainees who are Family Members or Self-Advocates.

Did not complete high school or GED High School Diploma/GED Some College
Professional Certificate or
Two-Year degree Bachelor's degree Master's degree or Doctorate

ACT LEND Short Essay

Please describe your experiences as a family member of a person with ASD/DD. Include any leadership, community, or advocacy experiences related to ASD/DD that you may have. Your essay can be 1-3 pages. Please attach at the end of this application.

Reference

Please attach one letter of reference from someone not related to you. Provide their contact information below. 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.

Reference Contact Information

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

Please return application materials by May 3, 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_Family_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**