



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

## ACT LEND LTT Self-Advocate Application Due May 3, 2021

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs train and teach graduate students, family members of people with disabilities, and self-advocates on issues that affect people with disabilities. These issues include health, education, employment, and social service systems. 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 different professional disciplines (for example, special education social work, self-advocacy) to be leaders in their fields. LEND also teaches trainees how other professions work with ASD/DD.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 ACT LEND Program as a Long-Term Trainee at The University of Texas at Austin. This application includes information about the program and instructions for how to apply. We will include at least one self-advocate in each trainee group. By self-advocate, we mean someone who is affected by autism or a developmental disability; and who wants to learn how to advocate for themselves and others. Each trainee will complete 300 hours of training and will receive a stipend totaling \$9,000. The 300 hours can be completed over 1 or 2 years. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Please visit our website if you would like more information:

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

### Self-Advocate Application Checklist:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed ACT LEND Application                 | <input type="checkbox"/> One letter of recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signed acknowledgement of program requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed short essay        |

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

## 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 and Texas State University. The ACT LEND Program provides training to graduate students, practicing professionals, family members and self-advocates. They learn about diagnosis, support, and advocacy for children with ASD/DD in the Capital Region and Central Texas.

Long-Term Trainees in this 9-month program must complete at least 300 hours of training and hands-on experiences. Self-advocates and family members can complete these hours over 1 or 2 years. 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. All other activities will be held in-person and/or virtually as conditions allow.

### 300 Activity Hours Include:



coursework



seminars



research and  
presentation  
opportunities



mentorship



hands-on  
experiences  
in clinic or  
community-  
based settings



## 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)
- ❖ 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

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- ❖ 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 if I choose).
- ❖ I understand 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.
- ❖ I understand that removal 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 or typing my name below, I agree to the conditions of the ACT LEND Program.**

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Signature

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Date

# ACT LEND Long Term Trainee Self-Advocate 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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you identify as being disabled or  
having a disability?                      Yes     No

## 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

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Please describe your experiences as a Self-Advocate with ASD/DD. Include any leadership, community, or advocacy experiences related to ASD/DD that you may have. This can include experiences advocating for yourself. You may use the space below or attach the 1–2-page essay at the end of this application.

## Reference

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Please attach one letter of reference from someone not related to you. This person should tell us why you would be a good choice for the ACT LEND Program. Letters should include contact information, how long they have known you, and any other information that may help in the selection process.

### Possible references could include:



A work supervisor



A religious leader at your place of worship



A teacher or other staff person who understands your disability



Someone else in the community who knows about your interest in ASD/DD leadership

### Reference Contact Information:

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

Please return application materials by May 3, 2021 to:

### ACT LEND Leadership Team

**Email:** [ACTLend@utexas.edu](mailto:ACTLend@utexas.edu)

Please save and attach your completed application as a single PDF, using the format: ACTLEND\_LastName\_FirstName\_SA\_application. You may have your support person assist you with the application. You may also contact our team for assistance.

*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](mailto:ACTLend@utexas.edu)**