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.

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

**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

Applicants should be full-time graduate students enrolled in one of the core disciplines at The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, or Texas State University during the 2022-2023 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](https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/act-lend)
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 2022-2023 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 2022-23 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. 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 1, 2022. Applications are due Friday, April 1, 2022 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 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 in addition to your degree program. 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.
Mandatory all-day ACT LEND Orientation during the week of August 15, 2022 (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 2023

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: [https://tinyurl.com/ACTLEND-grad2022](https://tinyurl.com/ACTLEND-grad2022)

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

*Program Director Dr. Sandy Magaña or*
*Administrative Program Coordinator Kate Thompson, LMSW*
*at ACTLEND@utexas.edu*
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 ☐

Ethnicity Hispanic/Latino ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino ☐

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

American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Other ☐

Languages Fluent other than English: ____________________________________________

Current Degree Program

College/University: ____________________________ GPA: ____________________________

Program/s of Study: ____________________________________________

Anticipated Degree: Masters Degree ☐ Doctoral Degree ☐ 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 2-3 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.

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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.

Name ___________________________________________ Date __________________________

Please return application materials by April 1, 2022, 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.

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