



LoneStar LEND

Leadership Education in Autism and
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

A collaboration between

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
University of Houston
Texas Woman's University
University of Houston - Clear Lake
Baylor College of Medicine
Baylor University

LoneStar LEND Program Requirements (abridged)

1. LEND Orientation
 - a. Last Friday in August 9am - 5pm
2. LEND Seminars
 - a. September – June: Fridays 9am – 4:45pm
3. Service Learning Project
 - a. Weekday time with team members
4. Families as Teachers
 - a. Four lectures from Family Faculty; three encounters with mentor family; attendance at three parent & advocate panels
5. Clinical Practica
 - a. 26 clinical rotations (half day – full day each)
 - b. Completed outside of Friday LEND seminars, typically during business hours
6. Leadership Weekend
 - a. Friday/Saturday in September (8:00am - 5:00pm) in Houston, TX
7. LEND Conference
 - a. Spring semester (Thursday – Friday); Houston, TX
8. Other Conference Requirement
 - a. BCM Chronic Illness + Disability Conference: Thursday – Friday in October; exact date TBD. Houston, TX OR
 - b. Texas Transition Conference: Thursday - Friday in February; exact date TBD. Location TBD
9. Developmental Screening events
 - a. Two Saturdays during LEND Year

Conference Participation

All Trainees will attend the annual LoneStar LEND conference held in the Spring semester (exact date TBD). Trainees are also required to attend either the Baylor Chronic Illness and Disability Conference (held in October) or the Texas Transition Conference (held in February). Additionally, optional funding will be made available for Trainees to attend a other (from a group of selected conferences) or professional development opportunity during the program year.

Families as Teachers Program

Each Trainee will be paired with a mentor family of a child with an ASD/DD to provide an opportunity for Trainees to experience a family's viewpoint into the process of diagnosis, treatment, and day-to-day life with ASD/DD. Trainees will schedule a minimum of two encounters with their assigned mentor family prior to April 30th. In addition, Trainees will attend two parent panels where a variety of disabilities and ethnic backgrounds will be represented. These interactive panels will be moderated by the LEND Family Faculty members and will expose Trainees to a variety of ASD/DD topics from the families' perspectives. Upon completion of the Families as Teachers program, Trainees will participate in a wrap-up session where each Trainee reflects upon the experience through a brief presentation to faculty and their peers. The presentation will focus on how system and service availability and/or gaps were highlighted by the families' experiences and ideas for services to fill those gaps. The Trainee will also highlight how they were most impacted by the family FaT experience and how they anticipate this will affect their practice in the future.

Service Learning Project

During the course of the LEND year, each trainee pursues an area of particular personal interest through the Service Learning Project. Conceptualized and completed in interdisciplinary groups of 3 - 4 trainees, the Service Learning Project will provide multiple opportunities for trainees to experience issues they will face in practice such as accountability, outcome-based approaches, family-centered models, collaboration, and interdisciplinary decision-making. Each of these components offers opportunities for trainees to enhance and strengthen their leadership skills. Trainee groups will present their leadership project at the conclusion of their program (date TBD). The Service Learning Project should focus on an issue in the field of disability/special health care needs and systems change. Each project will result in production of a product (brochure, web page, article, instructional video, etc.). The Service Learning Project is an opportunity to integrate relevant material from LEND seminars and take away a broader perspective of working with an interdisciplinary team.

In addition to the scheduled seminar sessions, Trainees can expect to spend an average of 8-12 hours per week on LEND activities such as clinical practica, Families as Teachers (FaT) program and other LEND activities, assignments, and projects.