



Are you interested in becoming a leader in a Health or Education career?

Do you want to improve your knowledge and skills related to:

- *Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD) other Neuro- and Developmental Disabilities (NDD/DD)*
- *Social Determinants of Health*
- *Life Course Theory*
- *Interdisciplinary thinking and practice*
- *Family- centered care*
- *Leadership Skills*

Consider LA LEND!

Apply if you are:

- Completed 4 semesters of graduate work by beginning of Fall 2017 semester OR a self-advocate, parent, or practicing professional in a Health or Education field
- In good standing with your department with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average
- Able to fully participate in LEND curriculum and activities
- Interested in achieving a leadership role in a Health or Education field that impacts and/or supports individuals with ASD, NDD or DD

For more information email Brittney Wright Peters at bwrig1@lsuhsc.edu

What is LEND?

The LA Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) is a nine-month interdisciplinary training program that incorporates both didactic and experiential learning in clinical and community-based settings. LA LEND prepares graduate students, family members, self-advocates, and practicing professionals to become future leaders in designing and implementing services, policies, advocacy, and consuming/conducting research and evaluation addressing the needs and priorities of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), other neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD) and developmental disabilities (DD) and their families.

Training Components

The curriculum includes:

- Three Core Courses with embedded clinical/community experiences and on-line and “live” assignments designed to provide opportunities for application and reflection
 - **MCH Foundations**
 - A one-day **Orientation to LEND** and **Community Building Seminar** that will be held at HDC either July 17, 18, or 19
 - 5 full day sessions and a half-day celebration and opportunity to meet with their FME families (the week before the first week of fall semester; August 7-12)
 - **Topics in ASD/NDD**
 - Trainees learn about **issues and best practices** related to ASD/NDD and **experience a variety of clinic- and community-based** activities that provide deeper understanding and opportunities to observe and/or implement things learned in class
 - Class meets weekly during fall and spring semesters (Monday 5:30-7:00)
 - **Interdisciplinary Leadership Seminar**
 - Meets one Friday afternoon per month fall and spring semesters (12:30-4:30)
- Family Mentoring Experience (FME)
 - FME is a year-long experience in which Trainees learn from and about the impact of ASD and other NDDs on the lives and routines of families with whom they are paired
 - Trainees meet their families in a variety of settings at least 6 times per year
 - Trainees complete a project that addresses a need identified by their FME family by the end of April
- Research activities related to ASD/NDD or other disabilities
- A capstone project related to disability services, policy, advocacy, research, or systems change.

LA LEND Training Program Requirements

- *Attend mandatory one day LEND Orientation and Community Building Seminar (either July 17,18,19)
- *Attend and participate fully in mandatory week long Foundations (August 7-12)
 - Attend Topics in ASD/NDD class (Monday evenings 5:30-7:00 fall and spring semester). Absences must be approved by LEND Coordinator and Mentor Faculty and plan to make up missed work submitted. ***MAXIMUM of 2 EXCUSED ABSENCES PER SEMESTER.**
- Interdisciplinary Leadership Seminar on Fridays (schedule To Be Determined)
 - Absences must be approved by LEND Coordinator and Mentor Faculty and plan to make up missed work submitted. ***MAXIMUM OF 1 EXCUSED ABSENCE PER SEMESTER**
- Schedule complete and document results of monthly meetings with your faculty mentor to plan and review learning objectives and activities in your personal portfolio (Note: Trainee, Mentor and Coordinator must attest to completion of these meetings by signing off)
- Complete additional activities (e.g., reflections, self-assessments, personal statements, etc.) as assigned- post and/or comment on work posted on Moodle.
- Develop and maintain a LA LEND Portfolio
- Complete clinic- and community-based experiences outside of class time
- Complete FME curriculum and assignments and present to LA LEND faculty and peers
- Complete and present research activities to LA LEND faculty and peers and/or at conference
- Complete and present Capstone Leadership project to LA LEND faculty and peers and/or at conference
- Respond to LEND Follow-up Survey at 1 year, 5 years, 10 years post-training
- Trainees will attend the AUCD Conference November in Washington, D.C.

Applications Due April 3, 2017.