

MN LEND Program

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities



LEND programs train future leaders in maternal and child health to have a real world impact on the lives of children and families with disabilities. LEND programs foster opportunities that help ensure that children, youth, and families are served by a quality workforce that promotes positive attitudes toward disabilities.

The program

MN LEND is an interdisciplinary leadership training program that aims to prepare future leaders who will serve children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families. MN LEND is partnership between the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, College of Education and Human Development, College of Liberal Arts, and School of Medicine. The program spans 16 disciplines at the University.

The curriculum

MN LEND curriculum incorporates didactic, clinical, research, and practicum experiences using a combination of activities located in both clinical and community training sites. Learning experiences include —

- Coordinated interdisciplinary training.
- Leadership skill development.
- Promotion of cultural competence and family-centered care.
- Community outreach and continuing education.
- Policy development.
- Translation of research to practice.
- Facilitation of collaborative processes skill development.
- Resource development and dissemination.

Training

MN LEND trainings are —

- Intended to have real-world impact on the lives of the 3.8 million children with developmental disabilities in the U.S.
- Exceptionally qualified to address many of today's health care shortages with interdisciplinary training of health care professionals.
- Inclusive of parents and families with

special health care needs

Focused on 16 core academic disciplines

Academic disciplines and contacts

Audiology: *Mark DeRuiter, PhD, MA;*
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Community: *Beth Fondell;*
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Developmental behavioral pediatrics:
Michael Reiff, MD; reiff001@umn.edu

Family: *Barb Kleist; kleis041@umn.edu*

Nursing: *Barbara Beacham, PhD, RN, CNP;*
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Nutrition: *Aida Miles, MMSc, LD, RD;*
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Occupational therapy: *Peggy Martin, PhD;*
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Pediatric dentistry: *Soraya Beiraghi, DDS;*
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Neuropsychology: *Robin Rumsey, PhD, LP;*
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Public health: *James Begun, PhD, MA;*
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School psychology: *Jen Hall Lande, PhD,*
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Self advocacy: *TBD*

Social work and Child welfare: *Amy Hewitt,*
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LaLiberte, PhD, lali0017@umn.edu

Special education: *Joe Reichle, PhD;*
reich001@umn.edu, and Frank Symons, PhD;
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Speech, language, and hearing sciences:
Joe Reichle, PhD; reich001@umn.edu

Other: *Beth Fondell; fond0030@umn.edu*

MN LEND program invites applicants interested and committed to improving the quality of life for children with NDDs and their families.



A University of Minnesota student status is NOT required to be a LEND Fellow. MN LEND is committed to creating diverse Fellowship cohorts to enhance the learning experiences for each Fellow.

The Fellows

MN LEND Program Fellows are graduate and postgraduate students, community members, parents, self-advocates, and/or providers selected for their outstanding skills, potential for leadership, and commitment to improving the quality of life for children with autism spectrum disorders, neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, and in support of their families.

In partnership with academic departments across the University, MN LEND offers 27-30 graduate level (master's or doctoral) students and/or community members opportunities as Fellows each academic year.

Benefits

There are many benefits to being a LEND Fellow, including —

- The opportunity to participate in a state-of-the-art clinical and community training experience with one-to-one faculty mentoring
- The unique chance to learn with a group of students from other disciplines
- Paid stipend
- Focused training on leadership skills and competencies
- Connections to other Fellows in the U.S. with similar academic backgrounds and interest in neurodevelopmental disabilities

Requirements

Each LEND Pre-Doctoral Fellow or Community Fellow will complete a total of 320 hours of training and learning activities made up of individual learning experiences identified and negotiated with their LEND Mentor in an individual learning and leadership plan (ILLP).

Full time Post-Doctoral LEND Fellows will be required to engage

in 46 weeks of full time training and professional development activity (total of 1,840 hours).

All LEND Fellows are required to complete —

- Weekly didactic seminars
- ASD/NDD clinic rotation
- Families as Teachers experience
- Customized individual learning and leadership plan (ILLP)
- Team building activities
- Community, research or focused clinical experiences
- Disability policy and services course (OLPD 5356)

Leadership competencies and experiences

- Increased understanding of autism and other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities
- Application of a public health approach that is family and community centered
- Participation in interdisciplinary training and practice
- Development of cultural and linguistic competence
- Increased knowledge of health disparities
- Exposure to an ecological view of health
- Utilization of technology-based communication and teaching
- Promotion of developmental potential
- Facilitation of transitions to adult life
- Promotion of self-advocacy and self-efficacy
- Translation of research to practice
- Engagement with policy development and dissemination

The Application process

MN LEND application process is completed online at lend.umn.edu. Applications open in two windows:

Early Admission Consideration: Open Oct 1-Nov 15, 2016

General Admission Consideration: Open Feb 1-Mar 15, 2017

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Institute on Community Integration, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
College of Education + Human Development, Department of Educational Psychology
College of Liberal Arts, Department of Speech Language and Hearing Services
University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics