



Vanderbilt LEND

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

LEND Network

The Vanderbilt LEND is part of a national network of Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs. As a network, these programs have an ultimate goal of improving the health status of infants, children, adolescents, and adults with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families. This goal is reached through exemplary leadership training programs such as the Vanderbilt LEND.

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VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

LEND—LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Interprofessional Program

The Vanderbilt LEND program provides a robust educational experience in neurodevelopmental disabilities to graduate and postgraduate students enrolled in academic programs within a variety of health-related fields, including:

- Audiology
- Deaf Education
- Dentistry
- Family Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Special Education
- Speech-Language Pathology

The experience stresses the importance of interprofessional, patient- and family-centered, culturally competent, community-coordinated services for infants, children, adolescents, and adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. The goal of the program is to prepare students for leadership roles in the field of maternal and child health, including interprofessional clinical care and public health service. The program provides specialized training for those interested in autism spectrum disorder and pediatric audiology. In addition to graduate and postgraduate students, the program includes at least one family member of a child with a disability in order to help provide a family perspective to the trainees. Applicants from diverse racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds as well as students with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Curriculum

The competency-based comprehensive curriculum includes:

- Blended learning coursework on neurodevelopmental and related disabilities
- Seminars that foster the development of leadership and interprofessional skills
- Family mentorship experience
- Advocacy training
- Community outreach activities
- Technical assistance
- Continuing education
- Product development and dissemination
- Research opportunities

Collaboration

The Vanderbilt LEND collaborates closely with Vanderbilt School of Medicine's Division of Developmental Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics; the Vanderbilt Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences; and other colleges, universities, and community agencies including:

- Belmont University (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy)
- Meharry Medical College (Dentistry)
- Tennessee State University (Physical Therapy)
- Tennessee Disability Coalition (Family Voices)
- University of Tennessee Nashville (Social Work)

The program is administered through the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, a transinstitutional center that includes:

- the LEND program
- a *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (EKS IDDRC)
- a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD)