



Vanderbilt Consortium LEND

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities



LEND Network

The Vanderbilt Consortium 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 Consortium LEND.

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Interprofessional Program

The Vanderbilt Consortium LEND (VCL) 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
- Genetic Counseling
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health
- 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. 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. Traineeships are also open to self-advocates, who contribute important first-person perspectives to discussions around disability. Applicants from diverse racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds, as well as students with disabilities, are encouraged to apply.

VCL also provides myriad educational opportunities for practicing health care professionals, including a mini-fellowship for pediatric generalists; autism screening workshops; interprofessional continuing professional development events; and family workshops.

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
- Care navigation practicum
- Advocacy training
- Community outreach activities
- Technical assistance
- Continuing education
- Product development and dissemination
- Research opportunities

Collaboration

The Vanderbilt Consortium LEND collaborates closely with Vanderbilt University 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
- East Tennessee State University
- Meharry Medical College
- Milligan College
- Tennessee Disability Coalition (Family Voices)
- Tennessee State University
- University of Tennessee

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

- the Vanderbilt Consortium LEND
- 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)