

University of Connecticut
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (CT LEND)
Student Trainee Application Guide
2026-2027

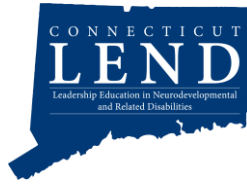
The 2025-2026 Student Trainee Application includes the following requirements:

- Completed application submitted via Qualtrics
- Curriculum vitae (CV)/resume uploaded in Qualtrics
- Up to three (3) written professional recommendations submitted via email to bruder@uchc.edu with a subject line: LEND applicant letter of recommendation
 - Letter from the [LEND faculty discipline coordinator](#) of your own discipline
 - Letter from a current or previous (within 1 year) faculty member or academic advisor (if different from LEND faculty discipline coordinator)
 - Letter from someone who can support your commitment to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) (e.g., a supervisor, undergraduate instructor, community-based organization, volunteer organization, etc.).

Preview of open-ended questions. We recommend saving responses in Word or another program prior to completing the application.

Please prepare a response to each question (no more than 500 words for each).

1. How did you hear about LEND?
2. What is your long-term career goal?
3. Describe how your involvement in the CT LEND program will help you achieve your professional short- and long-term goals.
4. Describe your experience with persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
5. Have you had any coursework (undergraduate, graduate, other) on intellectual and developmental disabilities? If yes, please explain. If no, what coursework have you had that is most relevant to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities?
6. Have you had any work experience (includes internships, volunteer work, shadowing/observation) working with and/or meeting the needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities? If yes, please explain. If no, what work experience have you had that is most relevant to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities?
7. Describe leadership experiences you have had and describe what you learned about yourself during these experiences.



8. Discuss your leadership style.
9. After your review of the MCH leadership competencies in the LEND program, identify three (3) that are most important to you and explain why.
10. After completing your graduate degree, how will you apply your LEND experience to your work?
11. After completing your graduate degree, how will you continue to apply your LEND leadership competencies to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Review of applications will begin as soon as applications are received and continue until the cohort is filled.

If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Mary Beth Bruder, PhD (bruder@uchc.edu).