



GULEND **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities**

What is GULEND?

GULEND is an interdisciplinary training program at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. **GU LEND** provides interdisciplinary training to health, education, and therapeutic service providers, advocates, policy makers, and family members to address the needs of children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities (ASD/DD). **GULEND** is part of a network of 60 LEND programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin.

The **GULEND** program focuses on developing service providers, family members, advocates, and others to provide culturally competent, family-centered, interdisciplinary, community-based services and supports for children and young adults with disabilities and their families. **GULEND** trainees are mentored by an interdisciplinary faculty of national and international experts in the field of developmental disabilities.

What are the requirements of participation?

The **GULEND** training program takes place from September through June. Trainees commit to approximately 400 hours of participation. The **GULEND** curriculum is made up of **five** components: 1) Didactic and Applied Experiences, 2) Clinical Experiences, 3) Experiential Learning, 4) Mentorship, and 5) Scholarship.

1. Didactic Sessions and Applied Experiences

The didactic sessions and applied experiences ensure that trainees learn basic information about characteristics, interventions, research, and policies regarding a host of neurodevelopmental disabilities. The didactic and applied activities are divided into four age-based segments: a) Service Delivery to Infants and Their Families; b) Service Delivery to Preschoolers; c) Service Delivery to School-Aged Children and Their Families; and d) Service Delivery to Adolescents and Adults. This curricular component occurs at Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development on the first, third, and fourth Fridays of the month.

2. Clinical Experiences

GULEND Clinical Experiences consist of **two** components: the **GULEND** Interdisciplinary Team at National Children's Center and **GULEND** Interdisciplinary Supplemental Experiences. Both components promote interdisciplinary diagnosis, evaluation, assessment, and intervention supports and services. They cross all age ranges and a variety of contexts.

3. Experiential Learning

Trainees will engage in a total of 5 experiential learning opportunities. Trainees will select 1 experiential learning opportunity from each of the following 5 areas: a) Community-based Programs for MCH Populations, b) Advocacy/Policy, c) Professional Development and Networking, d) Innovative Practices, and e) Service Systems.

4. Mentorship in Cultural & Linguistic Competence for Career & Life Goals

Mentorship for Equity supports trainees with the integration of cultural and linguistic competence with their career and life goals. Each trainee will be matched with a mentor who will guide the trainee in ways to understand and practice cultural and linguistic competence professionally and personally.

5. Scholarship

Trainees will design and implement a scholarly project by participating in **GULEND** faculty on-going research activities, investigating a research question related to individuals with ASD/DD, or participating in an on-going scholarly endeavor with a community-based partner. Scholarship activities may also consist of teaching, coaching, and/or mentoring others.

What are the benefits of participation?

GULEND participants learn from experts in the field, families, and people with disabilities. Each participant receives support, supervision, and mentorship by discipline and interdisciplinary faculty. Participants receive a stipend and may receive course credit based on the requirements of their academic program. Graduates of LEND programs become part of an integrated network of providers throughout the country. As members of the LEND community participants have ongoing professional development opportunities, leadership opportunities, and career pathways.

Where can I learn more?

For more information on the **GULEND** program, please contact the **GULEND** Training Director, [Lorelei Pisha](mailto:lorelei.pisha@georgetown.edu), EdD at lorelei.pisha@georgetown.edu, or the **GULEND** Director, Toby Long, PhD at longt@georgetown.edu for more information.

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