

# Va-LEND Trainee Application

Thank you for your interest in the Va-LEND Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. The priority due date **April 15, 2026** and the final due date is **May 15, 2026**. If you have any questions, need help completing this application or need an alternate format of the application please feel free to contact us at (804-828-0073) or at [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu).

The Va-LEND application is available as a **pdf form**, as well as an online form. Please use the format that is most accessible to you. You may also use extensions supported by Google on Chrome browser to support you.

Text-to-Speech & Speech-to-Text: Read & Write (<https://tinyurl.com/qz8du55>)

Screen Magnifier: Magnifying Glass (<https://tinyurl.com/r78wmak>)

\* Indicates required question

## 1. Email \*

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### Va-LEND Track Information

Please see the chart below for a description of the Va-LEND Trainee Tracks. For more information about the tracks please visit: <https://virginialend.partnership.vcu.edu/> or contact us at (804-828-0073) or [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu).

### Trainee Tracks

Long-Term Academic	Long-Term Non-Academic	Advanced Medium-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Enroll in 12 credit hours of graduate classes and get a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Disability Leadership.</li> <li>•Trainees must attend classes on Wednesdays from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. With additional work during the week.</li> <li>•<b>Length of Time:</b> 300 hours, completed in 1 or 2 academic years.</li> <li>•<b>Requirements for Admission:</b> Have an undergraduate degree and Work in the field of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Family, or Self Advocate. <b>OR</b> are currently enrolled in a Masters' or Doctoral program at VCU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Do not enroll in classes.</li> <li>•Trainees have an individualized program.</li> <li>•Trainees work with their advisors to develop a training and clinical experience plan that yields the required number of hours.</li> <li>•<b>Length of Time:</b> 300 hours, completed in 1 or 2 academic years.</li> <li>•<b>Requirements for Admission:</b> Work in a Va-LEND Discipline, Family or Self Advocate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Trainees have an individualized program.</li> <li>•They do not enroll in classes.</li> <li>•Trainees work with their advisors to develop a training and clinical experience plan that yields the required number of hours.</li> <li>•<b>Length of Time:</b> 150 hours completed in 9 months.</li> <li>•<b>Requirements for Admission:</b> Work in a Va-LEND Discipline, Family or Self Advocate.</li> </ul>

### Basic Information

2. Please enter today's date \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Example: January 7, 2019*

3. First name \*

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Last name \*

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you a US Citizen? \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No

**Contact Information**

6. Current Address (Street, Apt/ Building, County, State, Zip Code) \*

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7. Permanent Address \*

Provide a Permanent Address or select 'Same as Above'

*Check all that apply.*

- Same as Above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Email Address \*

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9. Phone number \*

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10. How did you hear about LEND? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Online Search Engine (e.g., Google, Bing)
- Social Media (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Referral from a Friend or Family Member
- Referral from a Colleague or Professional Contact
- Website
- Email
- Event/Conference
- Word of Mouth
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Va-LEND Trainee Tracks

11. I'm interested in applying as \*

 Dropdown

*Mark only one oval.*

- Long-Term Academic Trainee (300 hours)
- Long-Term Non-Academic Trainee (300 hours)
- Advanced Medium Term Trainee (150 hours) Blend of clinical and practicum experiences

## 12. Discipline(s) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Audiology
- Developmental Pediatrics
- Education/Special Education
- Genetic Counseling
- Law
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Family Member
- People with Disabilities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Personal relationship with disabilities \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Person with a disability
- Person with a special health care need
- Parent of a person with a disability
- Parent of a person with a special health care need
- Family member of a person with a disability
- Family member of a person with a special health care need
- My sibling is a person with a disability or with a special health care need
- I work with people with disabilities or with special health care needs
- None
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

14. Do you have an Undergraduate Degree? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes Skip to question 15

No Skip to question 19

Education Continued

15. Undergraduate Degree (Institution, Major, Degree Year) \*

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16. Graduate Degree (Institution, Major, Degree Year) \*

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17. Are you currently enrolled at VCU? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No Skip to question 20

18. If you are currently enrolled at VCU please list the name of your program or enter N/A \*

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Employment

19. Are you currently working? \*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No Skip to question 24

### Employment Information

20. Current Place of Employment \*

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21. Position Setting of Employment

Check all that apply.

Government Agency

Post-secondary Setting

Hospital

Non-Profit

For-Profit

Public Health/Title V

Schools or School System

UCEDD/LEND

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Is your employer providing financial support to participate in the program? \*

Check all that apply.

Yes

No

Unsure

23. Are you a current VCU Employee (or do you plan to be)? \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No

### Application Questions

Respond to each of these questions in about 200-250 words. If you prefer to record your answers, please contact the LEND office for directions.

24. Why do you want to become a LEND trainee? \*

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25. What characteristics do you have that prepare you for success in the LEND program? \*

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26. What experiences influenced your decision to be a leader with children, youth and/or adults with disabilities and their families? \*

Five horizontal lines for text entry.

27. What are your leadership goals in the next several years? \*

Five horizontal lines for text entry.

Supporting Documents

Please submit the documents outlined below to [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu)

- 1.College/university unofficial transcript(s), both undergraduate and graduate (if applicable for your application category).
- 2.Current resume or curriculum vitae or an audio/ video reflection of your work, volunteered or lived experiences.
- 3. Two letters of reference/recommendation - Both letters must be professional references (from faculty, work supervisors, advocates, volunteer supervisors, community organization, former LEND trainees etc.)

(Recommendation letters should be sent directly by references to [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu) or mailed to Va-LEND, 1000 E. Marshall St., Box 980405 Richmond, VA, 23298.)

Thank you! Press SUBMIT below to send your application

Thank You for applying to Va-LEND program. Please submit your documents to [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu).

If you have any additional questions please reach us at [valend@vcu.edu](mailto:valend@vcu.edu) or call us on (804) 828-0073