



## **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program**

*Seminar in Evidence-Based Methods Course Description  
Fall 2025 and Spring 2026*

Course Director: Jenna Lequia, Ph.D.

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### **Course Description**

The WIHD LEND Training Program consists of three courses: Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and their Systems of Care; Seminar in Evidence-Based Methods; and, Interdisciplinary Leadership in Action. Seminar in Evidence-Based Methods (SEBM) assists trainees in developing skills in finding, evaluating and applying evidence for use in practice, teaching, policy and research. This 60-hour, 2-semester course is a combination of didactic sessions, evidence-based interdisciplinary team projects, and oral and poster presentations. All SEBM teams engage a community partner at the local, state or national level as a project collaborator. The year culminates with poster presentations with the New York State Department of Health and at WIHD.

### **Course Goals**

The learning activities of this course are designed to help trainees develop a higher level of competency in the following MCH Leadership Competency areas: 4) Critical Thinking; 5) Communication; 6) Negotiation & Conflict Resolution; 7) Cultural Competency; 10) Interdisciplinary Team Building; 11) Working with Communities & Systems; and, 12) Policy and Advocacy.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, all trainees will:

1. Demonstrate improved mastery of evidence-based methods in ways relevant to their present or future professional responsibilities.
2. Achieve a deeper understanding of productive uses and common inappropriate uses of evidence-based methods.
3. Demonstrate improved knowledge and ability in searching, identifying and summarizing pertinent scholarly literature; extracting data from publicly available databases; designing evaluative research projects involving programs, products, services and policies; drafting and distributing surveys; collecting, analyzing and disseminating data; writing abstracts; and, presenting results by way of oral and poster presentations.
4. Describe essential elements of methods to protect human subjects involved in research and their confidential information.

## Course Requirements and Grading

**CITI Program Online Courses.** In order to participate in SEBM teams, each LEND trainee is required to complete Human Subjects training and Conflicts of Interest trainings for New York Medical College Institutional Review Board. Upon completion of the required courses, you will receive a certificate. These certificates should be sent to Dr. Lequia by **August 19**. You will receive an email with instructions on how to complete this requirement. Reach out to Dr. Lequia with any questions.

**Attendance and participation (15 points).** Attendance at class is mandatory. If you anticipate being unable to attend a session, Dr. Lequia and your SEBM team leader should be notified by email of your absence prior to missing class or in the event that is not possible, as soon as possible. Should you miss more than one class, you should make an appointment with the Dr. Lequia to discuss the effects of absences on your grade. It is expected that you participate in each class discussion in a meaningful way.

**Interim Presentation (15 points).** Each SEBM team will develop and present an interim presentation. Presentation content is to reflect what you have accomplished so far, *even though different teams may be at different points in the process*. The presentation will help you to clarify the objectives of your project and the methods to achieve them. If you have preliminary results, you can present them and discuss what remains to be done for the project. Each team will have 30 minutes to present (20 minutes to cover content and 10 minutes for Q&A). **Presentations on January 22, materials due January 20.**

**Mock Conference Proposal (10 points).** The mock conference proposal provides a written summary of your project and includes the following elements: (a) Title of project [Limit 20 words], (b) Proposal program description [Limit 70 words], (c) Abstract [Limit 550 words], and (d) Connection to conference theme [Limit 550 words]. **Draft due April 9, Final due April 23.**

**Research Poster (10 points).** Research posters are a recognized way to disseminate research findings. Each SEBM team will develop a poster for distribution during their poster presentation (at WIHD and in Albany). Poster content is to reflect what you have accomplished so far, *even though different teams may be at different points in the process*. Poster templates can be found on the LEND website. **Draft due April 9, Final due April 23.**

**Poster Presentations (10 points).** Each SEBM team will present a poster at WIHD to other trainees and faculty and to the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH). With your SEBM team members, you will share your projects and answer their questions. For poster session with NYS DOH, one member of each team will provide a brief (i.e., 3 minute) overview of the poster. **Poster presentation on April 30.**

**Self-assessments and Overall performance (40 points).** At two points during the year, you will be assessed by your SEBM leader and also be asked to complete a self-assessment (Mid-year and end of year self-assessments) on your performance. Each assessment is worth 20 points. Your overall performance for the mid-year and end of year assessment will be based on the following:

	Mid-Year	End-Year
Ability to search the scholarly literature for materials related to team project	•	•
Ability to summarize the pertinent literature in a concise manner to support the rationale and importance of team project	•	•
Awareness of responsibility to ensure the protection of the rights, welfare, and well-being of subjects involved in any of team's research activities	•	•
Ability to contribute to summarizing the findings and formulating next steps for team project		•
Efforts to actively participate in the mock poster session, providing team members and peers with support and feedback		•
Efforts to actively participate in team's effort to prepare project for presentation in Albany		•
Efforts to contribute to group discussions	•	•
Efforts to complete assigned tasks adequately and in a timely manner	•	•
Overall contributions to the team	•	•
Ability to accept feedback easily and act on it to improve when necessary	•	•
Awareness of the language used, person versus identify-first, when communicating with or referring to individuals with disabilities	•	•
Punctuality for classes, presentations and meetings	•	•
Ability to behave in a professional, collegial and respectful manner	•	•

### Summary of Grading Criteria

Attendance and Participation	15 (15% of total grade)
Interim presentation	15 (15% of total grade)
Mock Conference Proposal	10 (10% of total grade)
Research Poster	10 (10% of total grade)
Poster presentation	10 (10% of total grade)
Self-assessments and Overall performance (2 x 20 points)	40 (40% of total grade)
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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100 points</b>

Your final grade will be determined by the number of points earned out of 100 possible points.

## Course Schedule (Fall 2025)

### Sessions

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC
09/04/2025 2:45 – 4:00	At WIHD	Course Introduction & Research Team Descriptions
	Asynchronous module*	Searching the Scholarly Literature
	Asynchronous module*	Reading, Writing and Comparing Research Reports
	Asynchronous module*	Evaluative Research Methods
11/20/2025 9 – 10:30 am	Virtual	Research Discussion and Activity

*\*All asynchronous modules should be completed by November 11.*

### SEBM Team Meetings

DATE & TIME	LOCATION
#1 09/11/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#2 09/18/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#3 09/25/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#4 10/09/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	At WIHD
#5 10/16/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#6 10/23/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#7 11/13/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#8 11/20/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#9 12/04/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#10 12/11/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	At WIHD
#11 12/18/2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual

### Assignments

- Team Preference quiz (due September 6)
- Midyear Self-assessment (due December 16)

## Course Schedule (Spring 2026)

### Sessions

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC
01/22/2026 1 – 4 pm	At WIHD	Interim Research Presentations
	Asynchronous module*	Data Analysis and Presentation
	Asynchronous module*	Research, Policy and Practice
	Asynchronous module*	Poster Design & Preparation
03/26/2026 9 – 10:30 am	Virtual	Research Discussion and Activity <i>Co-Presenter: Kristy Leader, MEd</i>
04/16/2026 1 – 3:45 pm	Virtual	Poster Feedback Session
04/30/2026 8:45 – 12 pm	Virtual	Poster Session
05/07/2026 9:30 – 10:30 am	At WIHD	Graduation Poster Session

\*All asynchronous modules should be completed by March 17.

### SEBM Team Meetings

DATE & TIME	LOCATION
#12 01/08/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#13 01/15/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#14 01/29/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#15 02/12/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#16 2/26/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#17 03/12/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#18 04/02/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual
#19 04/09/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	At WIHD
#20 04/23/2026 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Virtual

### Assignments

- Interim Presentation (materials due January 20)
- Interim Presentation Self-assessment (due January 27)
- Poster (Draft due April 9, Final due Final due April 23)
- Mock Conference Proposal (Draft due April 9, Final due Final due April 23)
- Year End Self-assessment (due May 5)