



University of California
San Francisco

Learning for Early Careers in Addiction & Development

University of California, San Francisco
Pride Hall, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
2540 23rd Street, Box 0852, San Francisco, CA 94110



ABOUT THE LEAD PROGRAM

The **Learning for Early Careers in Addiction and Development (LEAD)** program offers mentorship and training to postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors who are pursuing independent research careers in substance use and substance use disorder treatment.

The LEAD Program uses the NIDA Clinical Trials Network (CTN) as a platform for training early-career investigators. This 3-year training program is based at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and visiting scholars spend each of three summers in a 4-week intensive program at UCSF. Scholars are assigned a primary mentor from the CTN, as well as two other mentors to support professional development. During the academic year, scholars work with their primary mentor to collaborate on substance use disorder treatment research conducted in the CTN, develop a professional research network, and conduct a pilot study that will serve as a preliminary study for subsequent NIH funding. The program provides travel and housing funds for scholars, as well as pilot study funding. The 2026 summer program begins on July 6th and ends July 31st. Learn more about the program at <https://psych.ucsf.edu/lead>

The current application deadline is December 31st 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Doctoral-level professionals who are in the early phase of their research career and who meet the following criteria:

1. Doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, MD, DrPH, or equivalent) in medicine, social or behavioral sciences, nursing, public health, health economics, or related fields.
2. Assistant professor, assistant research scientist, or equivalent with an academic appointment at a medical school, national research university (i.e., Carnegie Foundation classification as a research university with high or very high research activity), or research institute that offers doctoral degrees. Postdoctoral fellows enrolled in an NIH T32 training program or equivalent are also eligible.
3. Evidence of an established program of research in the field of substance use disorder and addictions as demonstrated by peer reviewed publications in the field of substance use disorder and addictions, and/or intramural grant support as either a principal investigator or co-investigator, and/or extramural grant support as a co-investigator in the field of substance use disorder and the addictions.
4. Open to individuals interested in working with medically, economically, and/or educationally disadvantaged populations.
5. Applicants must be either U.S. citizens or US permanent residents (green card holders)
6. Have not been a recipient of a K award or investigator-initiated R award from the NIH
7. Approval from the scholar's home institution to participate in the LEAD Program

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit <https://psych.ucsf.edu/lead>
or contact ast2dir@ucsf.edu for an application packet.

UCSF does not use race, gender, sex, or other protected categories or proxies for protected categories in the selection process.



<http://tiny.ucsf.edu/UCSFLEAD>