

Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in APPD LEAPES (Leadership Empowerment for Advancing Pediatric Education Specialists).

The Association of Pediatric Program Directors serves pediatric programs by leading the advancement of education to ensure the health and well-being of children. Pediatric Graduate Medical Education Specialists are an integral part of the pediatric program leadership team. LEAPES is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills and networking for Pediatric Graduate Medical Education Specialists who wish to gain the expertise needed to successfully guide their graduate medical education programs and advance their GME careers.

Through a 9-month advanced longitudinal course, LEAPES provides outstanding training for administrators aspiring to develop the knowledge and skills needed to become leaders in medical education. LEAPES will equip you with the knowledge, skills, and professional connections to drive innovation, foster continuous improvement, strengthen your leadership capabilities, and advance your career. Through increased visibility and opportunities to build your professional network, LEAPES will help position you for greater leadership responsibilities at both the local and national levels.

* Feel free to connect with the LEAPES Council if you'd like insights or examples to help build a strong proposal for program support with your leadership team.

APPD LEAPES FAQ

The program features:

1. Three in-person educational conferences: 1) a stand-alone 3-day meeting in the summer, 2) a 2-day meeting associated with the APPD Fall Meeting, and 3) a 2-day meeting associated with the APPD Spring Meeting (attendance at the Spring Meeting is required).

APPD Meeting Registration fees are included in the cost of tuition.

a. APPD LEAPES Summer 2027: July 20-22 2027 (TBD)

b. APPD LEAPES and APPD Pediatric Medical Education Conference: September 2027 (Arlington, VA)
LEAPES - September 14-15, 2027
APPD Pediatric Medical Education Conference - September 16-17, 2027
*registration for the Medical Education Conference is complimentary; you are not required to attend

c. APPD LEAPES & APPD Spring 2028: March 2028 (New Orleans, LA)
LEAPES - March 19-20, 2028
APPD - March 21-24, 2028 *attendance is required at the APPD Spring Meeting immediately following the LEAPES Meeting

2. 6 -7 1-hour virtual intersession meetings, held monthly, to deliver additional educational content. Attendance at all meetings is required.
3. Curriculum focusing on the domains of education scholarship, leadership, professional development, and networking
4. A nationally recognized council and subject matter experts with significant teaching and professional experience in program leadership and medical education
5. Participate in peer mentorship program
6. A mentored scholarly group project
7. A certificate given upon completion of all program-required elements

Application Requirements:

1. Applicant must be a current member of the APPD
2. Applicant must have at least 3 years of cumulative educational leadership experience as Program Coordinator, Associate Program Coordinator, Clerkship Coordinator, Program Manager, or other Graduate Medical Education position, with a minimum of 1 year in their current position
3. Description of educational role(s) and scholarly activities
4. Personal Statement addressing your professional goals in medical education, how participation in the APPD LEAPES program will support your career development, benefit your program(s), and contribute to your institution’s growth and success
5. Statement of Commitment confirming your commitment to actively engage, participate fully, and complete the program

6. Curriculum vitae
7. Statement of support from your Program Director (include Direct HR Manager, if not program director)
8. Program Director/Supervisor Letter of Recommendation
9. Peer Letter of Recommendation (must be an APPD Member)

Participant Commitments:

1. Attend all in-person and virtual meetings
2. LEAPES cohort year must not overlap with being in first year of new leadership role in APPD (i.e., coordinator executive committee)
3. Complete between-meeting assignments, participate in group email discussions and conference calls, and develop and implement a mentored educational group project

Required Support for Participation:

1. **Travel and Hotel Expenses** - Support for travel and hotel expenses to attend three in-person conferences
2. **Program Tuition** - $6,000 tuition for the program
3. **Technological Access** - Ensure you have the necessary technology to access the online learning management system

Application timetable:

1. December 1, 2026 Application system opens
2. January 30, 2027 Application deadline
3. February 27, 2027 Applicants notified