



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

**SUBJECT:** The City University of New York (CUNY), Herbert H. Lehman College: Regents Authorization to award the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree

**DATE:** November 27, 2024

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Betty M...*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Board of Regents authorize the City University of New York (CUNY), Herbert H. Lehman College to award the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its December 2024 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

On April 29, 2024, the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees authorized CUNY Lehman College to confer the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, subject to Regents approval.

#### **Background Information**

The CUNY Board of Trustees requests that the Board of Regents authorize Lehman College to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. Regents authorization is required because this will be Lehman College's first degree program leading to the Ph.D. degree. A master plan amendment is not required because the institution already offers doctoral level programs in the Higher Education General Information System (HEGIS) disciplinary area of the Health Professions.

The College is proposing a Ph.D. in Human Performance and Fitness. The proposed program aims to equip students with the necessary skills and competencies required to become scholars in human health, fitness, and performance, and ultimately pursue educational and research related opportunities in this realm. With the expanding need for qualified professionals in personal health and fitness creating a greater demand for college-level instructors, the new doctoral degree in Human Performance and Fitness will prepare educators and researchers in the areas of kinesiology, applied physiology, sports nutrition, and related exercise sciences for research-intensive positions at universities and other academic institutions.

The curriculum is comprised of a set of core courses in exercise science and, if applicable, related disciplines (e.g., nutrition). Courses will focus heavily on the scrutiny of research and include extensive writing of scholarly papers, giving oral presentations, and engaging in discourse. Students must also pass a comprehensive examination prior to proceeding to candidacy, and then complete and defend an original doctoral dissertation to qualify for graduation.

The program is unique in that no other program in the region offers a doctoral program that focuses on enhancing human performance and fitness. Thus, the proposed program will allow Lehman College to fill a need that is affordable and accessible to those who live in the New York metropolitan area.

### **Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize CUNY Herbert H. Lehman College to award the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents authorizes the institution to award the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the Department will register the proposed program in Human Performance and Fitness at CUNY Herbert H. Lehman College.