LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of change:** *Experimental Course*

2.

Department(s)	Nursing
Career	[ ] Undergraduate [X] Graduate
Academic Level	[X] Regular [ ] Compensatory [ ] Developmental [ ] Remedial
Subject Area	Family Nurse Practitioner
Course Prefix & Number	NUR 788
Course Title	Integrated Clinical Reasoning and Practice Readiness
Description	This culminating course advances the integration and application of clinical knowledge through a structured, evidence-based approach to clinical reasoning and practice readiness for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students.
Pre/ Co Requisites	PRE-REQUISITES: All of the following courses: NUR 776 and NUR 767 and NUR 773 and NUR 774 and NUR 775. CO-REQUISITE: NUR 776
Credits	2
Hours	2
Liberal Arts	[ ] Yes [X] No
Course Attribute (e.g. Writing Intensive, WAC, etc.)	
General Education Component	_X__ Not Applicable ____ Required ____ English Composition ____ Mathematics ____ Science ____ Flexible ____ World Cultures ____ US Experience in its Diversity ____ Creative Expression ____ Individual and Society

	____ Scientific World

3. **Rationale:**
Although students complete rigorous didactic coursework, mastery of content does not reliably translate into clinical reasoning competence. A gap exists between knowledge acquisition and its application to clinical decision-making among novice and transitioning clinicians. A structured, culminating course that explicitly targets clinical reasoning supports the transition from student to independent practitioner. This course moves beyond content review to emphasize *how* clinical decisions are made through case-based learning and iterative diagnostic reasoning exercises, thereby strengthening diagnostic accuracy and clinical judgment.

The course is designed to align with national standards for nurse practitioner education. The *American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials* identifies clinical judgment, diagnostic reasoning, and readiness for practice as foundational competencies for advanced nursing roles. This course offers structured preparation consistent with these expectations and enables students to demonstrate certification readiness through advanced practice examinations.

Placing this course in the final semester allows for consolidation of prior learning, identification of remaining gaps, and assurance that graduates achieve program outcomes related to clinical competence and certification readiness.
This course is essential to ensure that graduates are adequately prepared for certification and the demands of independent advanced practice. It operationalizes program goals related to clinical competence and maintains alignment with national standards for advanced practice nursing education.

4. **Learning Outcomes (By the end of the course students will be expected to):**
1. Apply advanced pathophysiology, pharmacology, health assessment (collectively known as the “3Ps,”) and family advanced practice nursing knowledge across the lifespan to clinical decision making
2. Synthesize previous learning including the “3Ps” and advanced practice nursing knowledge to prepare for certification.
3. Apply evidence-based guidelines to clinical decision-making in primary care.
4. Critically analyze practice questions using diagnostic reasoning and differential diagnoses.
5. Demonstrate readiness for certification through performance on practice exams.
6. Articulate professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities of the FNP role.

5. **Date of Departmental Approval:** March 9, 2026