

MASTER OF ARTS MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER (MRP) REGULATIONS

MRP Overview

The Major Research Paper (MRP) is to be a sustained exploration of a practical or empirical problem, or a study of a theoretical question. An MRP may take the form of a critical review of the literature in a field, or the exploration or synthesis of various points of view in a subject area. An MRP is a research-based paper that is specific in scope but less complex in methodology and data gathering than would be required for an MA thesis. Unlike an MA thesis, an MRP need not involve original research. Normally, an MRP should be between 40 and 60 double-spaced pages in length.

Students are welcome, where possible, to build on a paper already written for a graduate course. Please note that if you do decide to build on paper from a previous graduate course, this must be approved by your current MRP supervisor, with an email confirmation, and approved by the professor for whom you wrote the original paper. If you excerpt prior written material submitted for a graduate course, it must be cited properly in your MRP to acknowledge authorship. If you have questions related to this, please contact your MRP Supervisor.

MRP Supervisor

Students are responsible for approaching potential supervisors, who must be members of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS), Toronto Metropolitan University. The Program Director can assist students to identify potential supervisors. Most MRP supervisors will be faculty who are affiliated with the Program; however, there may be the occasion when a student is interested in securing an MRP supervisor from another department or faculty. If this be the case, the student is encouraged to contact the Program Director for guidance in this matter.

MRP Proposal

The Major Research Paper proposal is a one-to-two-page description of the proposed work, with a brief list of references.

YSGS guidelines indicate that MA full-time students must submit a formal proposal, approved by the MRP faculty supervisor to the office, **before the end of the second term**. However, the Program encourages students to follow the Early Bird Deadline Table, which are circulated by the Program. After an MRP proposal has been approved, a student may modify the proposal, with permission from the MRP Supervisor.

MRP Format

The MRP must adhere to acceptable academic standards and conform to scholarly requirements with respect to citations, bibliography, etc. Your MRP must include a title page that contains the following information: student's name, title of the paper, date submitted, name of supervisor, and the following sentence: "The Major Research Paper is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA degree in Criminology and Social Justice, Toronto Metropolitan University. [See page 4]"

MRP Second Reader

The appointment of a second reader comes during the latter part of the MRP writing cycle. Students should check-in with their supervisor to discuss the process for appointing a second reader.

Major Research Papers will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader, who is usually a member of the faculty and YSGS member. The second reader cannot act in the capacity of co-supervisor and must remain “at arm’s length” from the paper. In the event that the second reader finds the paper unsatisfactory, he or she should consult with the supervisor about possible revisions. The second reader may request minor revisions before the final paper is submitted to the program.

MRP Evaluation and Final Steps

Upon successful completion of the MRP Paper, the supervisor and second reader will assign a final grade using Toronto Metropolitan University’s graduate grading system. A written evaluation will be submitted to the program office, signed by both the supervisor and second reader. A form is available from the program office for this purpose and a copy is included toward the end of this document. The supervisor and the second reader may opt to meet with the student to discuss the paper but this is not required. The completed “MA MRP Supervisor and Second Reader Report” will be filed at the program by the supervisor and a copy is NOT made available to the student. The MRP notation on a student’s transcript will indicate Completed or Unsatisfactory and no grade is included.

If the supervisor and second reader are satisfied that all final minor revisions requested by them have been completed in accordance with academic standards, the final version of the MRP is then considered approved. Please note that the final version of the MRP is to include the Author’s Declaration, which is reproduced below and is to be placed on page two of your MRP and can be cut and pasted from below. The final electronic version of the MRP (including the Author’s Declaration) is emailed to the Program Office.

Author’s Declaration

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF AN MRP

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this MRP. This is a true copy of the MRP, including any required final revisions.

I authorize Toronto Metropolitan University to lend this MRP to other institutions or individuals for the purpose of scholarly research.

I further authorize Toronto Metropolitan University to reproduce this MRP by photocopying or by other means, in total or in part, at the request of other institutions or individuals for the purpose of scholarly research.

I understand that my MRP may be made electronically available to the public.

The MA MRP Supervisor and Second Reader Report will not be submitted to the Registrar’s Office until the final copy has been deposited electronically to the Program Office. Deadlines for submission of the MRP to be eligible to graduate are published by the YSGS and the program. Students are responsible for being aware of these dates.



MA MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL

Working Title: Student's Name: Student ID: MRP Supervisor: Second Reader (if known at this stage)

The proposal should consist of a one to two-page description of the proposed work, with a suggested bibliography.

Does your research involve the use of human participants? [] No [] Yes (Research Ethics Board (REB) approval letter is required in MA in Criminology and Social Justice program office on or before submission of final electronic copy of MRP) If the research involves the use of human participants, please read the Policy on Research Involving Human Subjects at: https://www.torontomu.ca/research/resources/ethics/

Student's Signature

Date of Submission

I have read and approved the attached proposal and bibliography and agree to serve as supervisor for the Major Research Paper.

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Approved by Graduate Director:

Graduate Director Signature

Date

FORMAT FOR TITLE PAGE

[TITLE of Major Research Paper]

By

[STUDENT NAME]

(Full name of the author, including past degrees, institutions, dates)

A Major Research Paper
presented to
Toronto Metropolitan University

In partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts
in the program of
Criminology and Social Justice

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, [year of convocation]

© name of author, [year of convocation]

Student: Please attach this form to your research paper



MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER Supervisor and Second Reader's Report

Form with fields for Student's Name, Student's ID, and Title of the Paper.

Assessment: (if additional space is needed, please attach separate page)

Transcript entry for the MRP: Pass [] Fail []

Grade: _____

[N.B.: "With Distinction" is not an official University designation – however, if the paper is deemed to be "With Distinction" (A+ only) please check here _ . This information will be kept on file in the program office.]

Supervisor name (PRINT): _____

Supervisor (Signature): _____ Date: _____

Second Reader (PRINT): _____

Second Reader (Signature): _____ Date: _____

Supervisor: Please forward this form to the program office and DO NOT return it to the student when completed.

Final approval:

Graduate Program Director Signature

Date