

Guidelines and Requirements - Major Research Paper (MRP)

Approved by FC Grad Exec April 27, 2017

Basic Requirements

The Major Research Paper (MRP) will be approximately 40 pages long, excluding notes and bibliography, and normally will be modeled along the lines of a scholarly journal article. It may be more exploratory than a Master's thesis. It is intended to develop skills in research and in defining an argument with a substantial body of evidence in a limited space. The Major Research Paper is expected to be completed within one year (three terms) for full-time students and two years (six terms) for part-time students.

Specific Requirements

- The MRP must address a specific analytical research question and/or be constructed along a clearly formulated hypothesis.
- An emphasis on Canadian subject matter is required.
- The work is required to be interdisciplinary.
- Original fieldwork or other travel for research is not normally permissible due to the limited timeframe for completion.
- The MRP must make an original contribution in at least two of the following three areas:
 1. Theory/Theoretical Framework
 2. Analysis and positioning of the research question.
 3. Work with original data.
- The MRP must demonstrate a thorough grasp of the secondary literature on a topic.
- The supporting documentation (including footnotes/endnotes and bibliography) must meet the standards of a well-regarded scholarly journal. An abstract, acknowledgement page and title page must be included in the final copy.
- An electronic copy of the title page and abstract must be sent to the Frost Centre Administrator.
- The style used for references/footnotes will vary across disciplinary practices, but must be consistent throughout, whether using MLA, APA, Chicago, or Turabian guidelines.
- The student is required to provide one coiled bound copy of the finished MRP to the Frost Centre office before a final grade is submitted to the Graduate Studies office.

Assessment

In the spirit of interdisciplinarity that grounds the Frost Centre, supervisory committees will normally include faculty from two academic departments or programs, or different

disciplines. The second reader must function as a 'blind reader, not as a co-supervisor. The second reader should offer comment on the original proposal for the MRP, but not be involved further until a copy of the final MRP is forwarded for grading by the supervisor. Using the MRP Assessment Form (available from the FC Administrator), the supervisor and the second reader will independently assign the MRP a numerical grade, and provide written comments to substantiate their assessment of the MRP. Each assessment is to be sent independently and directly to the Director of the Frost Centre who will assign the final grade based on the comments and grade received from both the supervisor and second reader. Consultation and collaboration on the grade to be assigned should not be undertaken by the supervisor and the second reader. The Director will consult with the supervisor if there is significant discrepancy in the assessments. There is no oral defence.

The MRP Assessment Forms will be sent/faxed directly to the Director. The MRP final grade will be the average of the submitted assessments.

A final grade below 70% fails the MRP.

Contact Information:

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