**MRP and Thesis Advising Notes**

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**Steps to developing your MRP or Thesis**

1. Decide what will be the best option for you: writing a thesis, MRP or course-based degree
2. Decide on a topic you would like to research
3. Find a supervisor who will support you during the research process
4. Write a research proposal
5. Defend your research proposal
6. Complete ethics if you are using human participants
7. Collect your data
8. Analyze your data
9. Write your thesis or MRP
10. Defend your thesis or MRP (oral examination)

**Differences between an MRP and a Thesis**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Major Research Project | Thesis |
| Less rigorous study | A more rigorous study |
| Requires you to complete 6 courses | Requires you to complete 4 courses |
| Supervisory Structure:  Supervisor + Second Reader | Supervisory Structure:  Supervisor + Second Reader + External Readers |
| MRP allows for more flexible projects such as essays, curriculum development projects, videos, and artwork. These projects will also need to be accompanied with written descriptions | Thesis requires research aligned with academic conventions |
| Length: about 100 pages | Length: about 50 pages |

**Structure of MRP Proposal**

1. Introduce the topic:

Introduce the topic you are going to research by stating the issues and problems regarding your topic.

1. Literature review:

Provide a review of academic literature about your topic (you may choose to integrate this in your introduction. Especially since review of literature often leads to the justification for the significance of the research you would like to do.

1. Heart of the proposal:

Formulate your research question. Propose what you intend to research, the context for your research, overview your strategy for completing your research and the potential significance of your research

1. Methodology:

Expand on your methodological approach to answering your research question

Remember, method can determine how long it takes to complete your research. Human participant research will require ethics approval which will expand the time it takes to complete your study.

Deskwork strategies decrease the time it takes to complete research. The most common are literature reviews and discourse analysis. You can also consider doing projects such as composing artwork or curriculum development projects.

Don’t build your strategy on your own, think about your life goals and consult with your professor, the GPD, read method books, course directors and your peers to review a strategy that will allow you to meet your academic and life goals in a meaningful way.

1. Conclusion: You can suggest outcomes that may result from this research but you don’t have to force it. Summarize the main parts of your proposal.
2. Time line:

Provide a propose timeline to predict how long it will take for you to complete the main steps of developing a MRP

1. List of references:

Provide a list of sources that you speak to in your proposal. Some professors will ask you to include a separate source page of sources you will look into. This is particularly the case if you propose to do a literature review.

1. Human participation forms

If you will involve human participants make sure to include the necessary forms so you can submit them once your proposal has been approved. Here is the link to the forms:

TPSC Certificate: <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/index/>

TD forms: <http://research.info.yorku.ca/ore/human-participants/>

**Questions and Answers about writing and MRP or Thesis**

Q: Are you eligible to do a PhD if you choose an MRP option?

A: Yes. I recommend that you do a thesis or an MRP because while the course work pathway is getting more popular there are still universities that expect you to have written a MRP or thesis.

Q: Are there any proposal deadlines?

Still waiting for feedback on this. Professor tells me that he is developing a chart to illustrate critical deadlines.

Q: Do you need to take a methods course to do a MRP or Thesis?

You do not need to but you can take extra course if you like. Traditionally master students didn’t need to take a research methods course but that is in the process of changing.

If you are not sure if a course you are taking that is a research course, please contact the GPD office and ask them to confirm if the course is a method course or not.

Contact: [gradprogram@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:gradprogram@edu.yorku.ca) and QZha@edu.yorku.ca

Q: Are MRPs available in Canadian Scholarly databases in the same manner that a thesis is?

Waiting for a response.

Q: Do you recommend that we finish our classes before we start our MRP?

No, you can start as soon as you are ready but I recommend you do this after you finish a research methods course.

How does one go about approaching a professor to be a supervisor?

Search for a professor that can supervise you by visiting the profile page that provides the professors contact information.

http://edu.yorku.ca/academic-programs/graduate-studies/#squelch-taas-tab-content-0-3