

**Master of Arts in
Public Policy and Administration
Ryerson University**

**THE M.A. MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER
Regulations**

The Major Research Paper (MRP) should be a sustained exploration of a practical, empirical or theoretical question or problem. Unlike a Master's Thesis, a MRP need not involve original research. It may take the form of a critical review of the literature in a field, the exploration or synthesis of various points of view in a subject area, a work-based analysis, or a pilot study for a larger project. The MRP may be a research project that is narrower in scope, less sophisticated in methodology, or less complete in data gathering than would be required for a thesis.

Normally, the MRP should normally be between 40 and 60 double-spaced pages in length. Students are encouraged where possible to develop further a paper already written for a course.

Format

The MRP must be printed to a professional standard and must conform to normal scholarly standards with respect to citations, bibliography, etc. It must be submitted with a title page that contains the following information: student's name, title of the paper, date submitted, name of supervisor, and must include this sentence: "The Major Research Paper is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA degree in Public Policy and Administration, Ryerson University. [Refer to the sample at the end of the regulations.]

Supervisor

The student is responsible for approaching potential supervisors, who must be a member of the Program Faculty. Faculty Advisors and the Program Directors can assist students to identify potential supervisors.

Proposal

The Major Research Paper proposal is a one- to two-page description of the proposed work, with a suggested bibliography. MA full-time students must submit a formal proposal approved by the MRP faculty supervisor to the appropriate program office **before the end of the second term**. MA part-time students must submit a formal proposal **before the end of the fourth term**. The proposal may be modified with the permission of the supervisor after it has been filed in the program.

Second Reader

Major Research Papers will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader, normally also a member of the Program Faculty. Students may consult the second reader prior to the completion of the draft, but 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.

Evaluation

Upon completion of the paper the supervisor and a second reader will assign a final grade using the normal grading scheme. A written evaluation will be submitted to the program office, signed by both the supervisor and the second reader. A form is available from the program office for this purpose. 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 for program use only and not returned to the student. No grade will appear in the student’s transcript.

Paper for Evaluation and Filing

The student is responsible for submitting two hard copies of the paper, one for each reader. After the evaluation - and the oral if required - the student must deposit a final copy (after completing any minor revisions requested by the readers) with the Program Office. The result of the evaluation will not be submitted to the Registrar’s Office until the final copy has been deposited. Deadlines for submission of the paper in order to meet the June and November convocation dates are published by the program each year.

Master of Arts
Public Policy and Administration
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MA MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL

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 and the REB report is attached.

If the research involves the use of human participants, please read the Policy on Research Involving Human Subjects at: <http://www.ryerson.ca/ors>. A Research Ethics Board (REB) report must accompany the MRP proposal for submission to the program/associate director.

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:

Signature

Date

FORMAT FOR TITLE PAGE

MA MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER

[TITLE]

[STUDENT NAME]

[Student number]

[Supervisor's Name]

The Major Research Paper is submitted
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

Public Policy and Administration
Ryerson University
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[date submitted]

Student: Please attach this form to your research paper

A Word Format of this form is available at <http://mppa.ryerson.ca/forms> Click 'MA MRP Regulations & Forms'

Public Policy and Administration
Ryerson University

MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER
Supervisor and Second Reader's Report

Student's Name:	Student's ID:
Title of the Paper:	

Assessment:

Transcript entry for the MRP:

Passed

Failed

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: _____

Date: _____

Second Reader: _____

Date: _____

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

Approved: _____
Graduate Director Signature

_____ Date