

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

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 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.

MRP Supervisor

MRPs must be supervised by a faculty member who must be a member of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS), Ryerson University. MPPA students are responsible for approaching potential supervisors. The MPPA Program Director and Program Administrator can assist students to identify potential supervisors. Most MRP supervisors will be faculty who are affiliated with the MPPA 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 MPPA Program Director or Program Administrator for guidance in this matter.

MRP and Previous Course Work

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 a 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. A copy of the previous course paper must be provided to the supervisor. 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 Proposal

The Major Research Paper proposal is a one- to two-page description of the proposed work, with a brief list of references. Please refer to the “Early Bird Deadline” table for information related to the stages for completing your MRP.

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

MRP Second Reader

Major Research Papers will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second reader, who is usually a member of the MPPA faculty and YSGS member. Students should check in with their supervisor to discuss possible second readers and the process for approaching and appointing a second reader. 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 revisions before the final paper is submitted to the program.

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: title of the paper, student's name, past degrees/institutions/dates, and the following 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 page at the end of this document.]

The MRP should also include an abstract and table of contents.

All final MRPs submitted to the MPPA Program Office will be deposited to the Ryerson University Library for public access via the digital repository

(https://digital.library.ryerson.ca/islandora/search/%2A%3A%2A?f%5B0%5D=mods_extension_degree_department_ms%3A%22Public%20Policy%20and%20Administration%22). The MRP format must be prepared in accordance with the procedures and information outlined in the *YSGS Thesis, MRP, and Dissertation Submission Guidelines* which are available on-line:

https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/graduate/current-students/policies/Thesis_MRP_Dissertation_Guidelines.pdf

The responsibility for submitting an MRP in the correct format rests with the author.

Although there is no mandate obligating graduate programs to submit MRPs to the RU Library, the MPPA Program has implemented this internal requirement as it found that many students do like their papers to be online as they are accessible in support of job applications and future applications to graduate programs. Having both theses and MRPs in the RU Library online also provides a repository and record of research conducted by program students on a wide range of topics.

MRP and Academic Integrity

All MRP submissions must adhere to Ryerson's academic integrity policy [Policy 60 Academic Integrity]. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with Policy 60.

<https://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/students/what-is-integrity-and-misconduct/>

Any questions about plagiarism or academic integrity should be discussed with the supervisor.

All final MRP submissions are submitted to Turnitin. Ryerson subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention tool. The GPD turns on the Turnitin originality report feature, which allows for the MRP to be cross-referenced with Turnitin.com's in-house database of millions of manuscripts turned in from schools in Canada, the United States, and the entire internet. The results are compiled into an originality report that outlines any similarities to these sources.

MRP Evaluation and Final Steps

Upon successful completion of the MRP Paper, the supervisor and second reader will assign a final grade using Ryerson University's graduate grading system. The MRP notation on a student's transcript will indicate Pass or Fail.

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 MPPA Program by the supervisor and a copy is NOT made available to the student.

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 submitted to the MPPA Program Office via Turnitin.

Author's Declaration

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 Ryerson University to lend this MRP to other institutions or individuals for the purpose of scholarly research.

I further authorize Ryerson 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.

Deadlines for submission of the MRP to be eligible to graduate are published by the YSGS and the MPPA Program. Students are responsible for being aware of these dates.

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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 (REB approval letter is required in MPPA 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.ryerson.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 Program Director:

Signature

Date

FORMAT FOR TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF THE MRP

by

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

A MRP

presented to Ryerson University

in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in the program of
Public Policy and Administration

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, year of convocation

© Name of author, year of convocation

Student: Please attach this form to your research paper

Master of Arts
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: (if additional space is needed, please attach separate page)

Transcript entry for the MRP:

Passed

Failed

Grade: _____

Supervisor (PRINT): _____

Date: _____

Supervisor (Signature):

Second Reader (PRINT): _____

Date: _____

Second Reader (Signature):

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

Approved:

Graduate Program Director Signature

Date