Graduate Program in Management Practice Major Research Paper (MRP)

The MRP is a culmination of the program and should demonstrate a student's ability to formulate research problems, conduct independent research, and handle and analyze data. The MRP requires a substantial amount of work that will be judged on its theoretical soundness and practical relevance.

The MRP will be supervised by a faculty member of the Management Practice Graduate Program and read by another member of the faculty who has been appointed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Upon completion, the MRP will be evaluated by the supervisor and the second reader, who must both approve the final MRP. Students have an option of fulfilling the MRP requirement by doing a Work Place Project (WPP) in the context of the organization they are currently working for or have direct access to. This arrangement would require an agreement and cooperation from the organization. For WPP, the second reader is replaced by the supervising manager from the organization.

To ensure successful and timely completion of the MRP, students are required to regularly attend a mandatory non-credit research seminar series where they will be guided through deadlines and deliverables, share their ideas, and meet the faculty.

Guidelines for the MRP

1. The MRP may, with the approval of the supervisor, be an extension and adaptation of a course paper(s). One long paper cannot be accepted as both a course paper and a Major Research Paper.
2. At the core of our MScMP program is the selection of a supervisor and a second reader for the MRP. Students are expected to choose a supervisor. The supervisor will help with selecting a second reader for the paper. Both the supervisor and the second reader must be appointed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students should notify the Graduate Program about their choices.
3. The MRP Seminar Series is designed to guide you through the preparation of your MRP Proposal, setting you on the path to completing your MRP over the summer term. Students are expected to submit a preliminary version of their MRP proposal and other intermediate deliverables during the MRP Seminar Series.

4. A topic for the MRP should be relevant to the selected focus area, address substantive problem(s), be manageable, and have clear managerial implications. Ideas for the MRP can be presented and discussed at the MRP Seminar Series.
5. The MRP proposal must be approved by the supervisor. A copy of the approved proposal and signed approval forms must be submitted online to the program office.
6. Students will submit the final draft of their MRP to both the supervisor and the second reader. The second reader will inform the supervisor whether the MRP is acceptable, acceptable with revisions, or unacceptable.
7. Once the program office is notified by the supervisor and second reader that the MRP has been accepted, the student must prepare and submit an electronic copy to the MScMP office.
8. Important deadlines for the MRP will be provided at the MRP Seminar Series and on the program website.

MRP Structure

Generally, the MRP should be approximately 40-50 double-spaced pages (about 10,000 words) in length. It is expected to include the following sections:

- Research problem/question
- Problem justification
- Literature review
- Research Method Description
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Bibliography

MRP Timeline

Below is a rough timeline for the MRP. The exact deadlines will be announced at the MRP Seminar Series.

Milestone	Deadline for submission (and seminar meet)
Supervisor identified. Preliminary research ideas presented/discussed	Mid January
Identify the topic. First draft of the research problem/question and its justification	Late-January (seminar meet #1)
MRP Propossal approved by the supervisor and submitted to the program office	Early February

Milestone	Deadline for submission (and seminar meet)
Research Problem, Justification and Literature Review	Late March (seminar meet #2)
Research method. Data collection. Action plan. Ethics approvals if needed.	Mid-May (seminar meet #3)
Data analysis and first complete draft submitted to the supervisor	Late June
Revised draft submitted and presented	Late July (seminar meet #4)
Final submission to the Program's Director (requires supervisor approval first)	During the month of August

Research Involving Human Participants for MRPs

York University has formulated a policy for the conduct of research involving human participants. This policy is intended to serve as joint protection for the researcher, the study participant, and the University to ensure attention to various rights and responsibilities of the respective parties to the research endeavor. The Human Participants Review Committee (HPRC) is responsible for ensuring that research involving human participants is consistent with the guidelines set by the University and the relevant regulatory authorities.

Students who are planning to actively conduct research using human participants during their Major Research Paper will not be able to begin their research without ethics approval and this process is time-consuming. Students whose research will involve human participants must complete and submit the Human Participants Research Protocol Questionnaire (and supporting documentation) to the Socio-Legal Studies Research Ethics Committee for review (contact the SLST office for details). Please note that ethics approval is required regardless of whether the research is funded or not –this includes pilot and/or preliminary research.

For MRPs involving Unfunded Minimal Risk Research, visit section 3.1 of the FGS Research Ethics Procedures.

For MRPs involving Research, that is Not Minimum Risk or that is Funded, visit section 3.2 of the FGS Research Ethics Procedures.

Work-place Project (WPP)

Students have an option of fulfilling the MRP requirement in the context of the organization they are currently working for. This arrangement would require an agreement and cooperation from the organization. The WPP differs from the MRP by being more applied and dealing with real-time organizational situations.

- Because proprietary data are most likely to be involved, the WPP doesn't require a second reader, but rather two supervisors – one a Graduate Program faculty member and the other from the organization.
- The WPP should result in a 40-50 page-long paper similar to the MRP and an extended abstract that will not include any proprietary data and will summarize the research performed.
- The full paper should be read and approved by both the academic and organizational supervisors.
- The paper remains with the organization. The extended abstract approved by the supervising manager should be submitted to the MScMP program office.