



### **1. Major Research Paper (MRP):**

The Major Research Paper (MRP) is a scholarly research project of approximately 40 pages (double-spaced) in length. It provides a critical analysis of an object/event/case study/text and serves to augment or enhance our knowledge thereof. Normally, MRPs include:

- i) a primary research question that serves to guide the MRP;
- ii) a clearly articulated theoretical framework that provides a review of the pertinent literature;
- iii) a critical analysis of the relationship(s) that obtain between the object/event/case study/text and the chosen theoretical framework; and
- iv) a conclusion.

MRPs need not reference a recognized research methodology to be successful. Rather, emphasis is placed on a critical analysis of the object in its relation to a body of theory.

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### **2. Thesis:**

The Thesis is a scholarly research project of approximately 70 pages (double-spaced) in length. It is an original piece of research, employing a recognized research methodology, yielding novel conclusions via exhaustive critical analysis. Normally, theses name an object/event/case study/text as their central focus and include:

- i) a primary research question that serves to guide the thesis;
  - ii) an exhaustive and clearly articulated theoretical framework that provides comprehensive review of all the primary and secondary literature;
  - iii) a recognized methodological framework that enables the student to gather and analyze an original data set;
  - iv) a critical analysis of the relationship(s) that obtain between the object/event/case study/text, data set(s), and theoretical framework(s); and
  - v) a concluding section wherein the thesis' original contribution to the body of scholarly knowledge is fully articulated.
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## 1. **Major Research Paper (MRP):**

The MRP is the recommended final research project for the majority of Graduate Students completing their M.A. in Communication & Social Justice. Please see the detailed description of the constituent elements of the MRP in the document titled 'Capstone Research Project Descriptions.'

- i. Students opting to write an MRP need to complete 5 courses in total (3 required [40-500, 40-501 & 40-502] & 2 electives)
- ii. The MRP Committee consists of a Supervisor and a Program Reader
- iii. MRPs do not require the student to draft or defend a Proposal
- iv. Students must deliver a public oral presentation and defense of their MRPs
- v. The potential outcomes of the public oral presentation and defense are:
  - i. Pass with No Revisions
  - ii. Pass with Minor Revisions
  - iii. Pass with Major Revisions
  - iv. Fail

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## 2. **Thesis:**

Based upon the recommendation of a Faculty Member and a performance evaluation completed by the Graduate Committee, students may be permitted to write a thesis. In order to do so, students are encouraged to (i) successfully complete three courses in the first semester and achieve an 80% overall average; (ii) provide a 250-word rationale explaining the reasons for wishing to undertake a thesis; and (iii) submit a 2-page outline that summarizes the topic (i.e. research question) proposed theoretical/conceptual framework, and methodological approach.

- i. Students opting to write a Thesis need to complete 4 courses in total (3 required [40-500, 40-501 & 40-502] & 1 elective)
- ii. The Thesis Committee consists of a Supervisor, Program Reader, External Reader, and Defense Chair
- iii. A Thesis Proposal of 18-20 double-spaced pages (including bibliography) must be drafted and defended prior to the commencement of research. The proposal should succinctly articulate the research question, provide a relevant review of literature, and concisely explain the theoretical and methodological approach
- iv. Students must deliver a public oral presentation and defense of their Thesis
- v. The potential outcomes of the public oral presentation and defense are:
  - i. Pass with No Revisions
  - ii. Pass with Minor Revisions
  - iii. Pass with Major Revisions
  - iv. Fail