

Demystifying Graduate Studies Series

2024

Policies, Deadlines & Logistics

With Loretta Fiorini (GPA) and Dr. Gabby Moser (GPD)

February 7, 2024

Please find the links from the session below (these links can also be found in the [Graduate Guidebook](#) or the Graduate Program website).

Graduate Forms

Masters:

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/students/graduate-students/graduate-forms/#forms-info-mrp>

PhD:

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/students/graduate-students/graduate-forms/#progressing-phd>

Graduate Diplomas:

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/students/graduate-students/graduate-forms/#graduate-diplomas>

MEd Thesis Checklist:

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/06/MEd-Thesis-Procedural-Checklist.pdf>

Dissertation Proposal/Comprehensive Examination (DC/PE)

Policy & Procedure Document:

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/11/Dissertation-Proposal-Comprehensive-Examination-DPCE-Policy-Procedure-May2023.pdf>

Forms for Dissertation Proposal and Comprehensive Exam (checklist, request form, etc.):

<https://www.yorku.ca/edu/students/graduate-students/graduate-forms/#forms-dissertation-proposal-comprehensive-exam>

Graduate Academic Petitions:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/regulations/graduate-academic-petitions/>

Ethics: <https://www.yorku.ca/edu/students/graduate-students/graduate-forms/#ethics>

Thesis and Dissertation, FGS:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/thesis-and-dissertation/>

Discussion Topics to Inform Productive Supervisory Relationships:

<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/wp-content/uploads/sites/184/2021/04/supervisory-discussion-topics.pdf>

Defending your Proposal & Dissertation

With Stella Kim and Kiera Brant-Birioukov

February 14, 2024

Stella's Demystifying the MRP

- Try to take courses that are interesting to you/your research and eventually take courses that will relate to your MRP
- Coursework is important in helping you frame your research
- Wrote chapters throughout the two years
- Got ethics approval
- After supervisor approves MRP, second reader reads and then eventually approves and then a summative discussion meeting is scheduled

Summative discussion

- More like a conversation about your work
- revisions are then made afterwards
- They are not there to interrogate but rather converse about your work and research

Kiera's Preparing for the defence

Proposal Defence

- MRP — a conversation with your supervisor
- Preparedness is through written proposal
- MEd Thesis — a conversation with your supervisor and committee to demonstrate preparedness for research
- Written proposal and conversation
- PhD dissertation— a conversation with your supervisor and committee to demonstrate preparedness for research
- Written proposal, conversation and presentation

Standards of a proposal

- Is the candidate intentional and informed about their project?
- Is the research feasible and realistic?
- Is the research a unique and/or necessary contribution to the field?
- PhD only: is there demonstration of emerging expertise in the field?

Final Defence

- MRP — convo with supervisor and second reader (1hr)
- Summative Discussion Meeting
- Success is completion of the project and identifying key takeaways
- MEd Thesis — convo with supervisor and two committee members And internal and external (1.5-2 hrs)
- Oral defence is a 10-15 mins presentation followed by Q&A
- Success is demonstrating your journey as a new researcher - envisioning a project and executing it
- PhD Dissertation — supervisor, committee, internal, external (2-3hrs)
- Oral defence is a 15-20 mins presentation followed by Q&A
- Success is in demonstrating your emerging expertise in your field

Tips and Suggestions

- Remember it is a celebration of your work
- Accept feedback and insights with humility. It is not an interrogation!
- Your supervisor will not let you fail!
- You set the tone for your defence/summative

Ask Yourself...

- Is this a story? (Curiosity of the process)
- Is this a justification? (Consider how you will explain your work further)
- Is this an elaboration? (Consider how you will elaborate some points even if you already wrote it in)

PhD defence degree

- Passing with no revisions
- Pass with minor revisions
- Pass with substantial/major revisions
- Can not pass and will need to re-defend (very rare and usually your supervisor will flag it before you defend)

How to handle your defence without crying

- There is no shame to cry
- Remember to set the tone to help with your anxieties

- Bringing the body into the space and all the emotions into the space

How to advocate your page count

- Don't do it upfront but rather you show them the justification for more page count
- Get out what you need to get out and then trim if needed

MRP versus Thesis

- Usually students are told to do MRPs because thesis rarely every done??
- Consider an MRP until you outgrow it
- MRP turns into a project versus thesis turns into scholarly connections
- More feasible to do an MRP versus thesis
- There use to be a rumour that you need to do an MRP in order to get into PhD program — this is a lie

Page count for MRP versus Thesis versus Dissertation

- Thesis: 75-100 pages
- MRP: project + 20 pages or roughly 50 pages total
- Dissertation: 250-300 pages

Writing the Dissertation and MRP

(TBA)