

GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The objective of the project is to conceive, plan, execute and report a study relevant to family medicine. Each student will undertake the project under the direction of an assigned supervisor. A written report of the study will be critically evaluated by the supervisor and when approved will be submitted to two graduate studies faculty members of the Department of Family Medicine for evaluation. Appropriate feedback will be given to the student. The project will be completed when it is suitable for presentation at a public forum (research meeting or free-standing paper session) or submission to a peer reviewed journal.

DETAILS:

The student is required to submit a research proposal (max. 8 pages) to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Program outlining their research plan. The following outlines the format of the proposal:

CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction (3-4 pages)**
 - 1.1. Identify the problem / issue to be studied
 - 1.2. Brief key literature review leading to rationale and objectives of the study
 - 1.3. Objectives of study
 - 1.4. The research question
- 2. Proposed Methodology (1-2 pages)**
 - 2.1. Research design
 - 2.2. Sampling techniques (including sample size calculation if appropriate)
 - 2.3. Data sources and collection techniques
 - 2.4. Data analysis and interpretation
 - 2.5. Ethical considerations such as: confidentiality, informed consent.
- 3. Personal Work Plan and Timeline for Completion (1 page)**
- 4. References (Expectation is that you review 8-10 papers)**

This proposal is then presented at a Graduate Studies Committee meeting for approval and to assign a supervisor.

Before the student progresses, the proposal should receive formal written approval from the supervisor and/or the Chair - according to Departmental Guidelines.

The student will report on the project using an accepted format appropriate to the study design. It will be typed, double spaced, and include a title page. It will be submitted **to the Chair of the Graduate Studies Program following the supervisor's written approval.**

The project will then be evaluated by two other graduate faculty members of the department. The reviewers are expected to provide comments and recommendations to assist the student in preparing a paper suitable for presentation at a public forum or submission for publication, at which time the project is considered complete.

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS IS TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE UNIVERSITY DEADLINE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TIME FOR REVISIONS, AND PROJECTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIR OF THE GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM

MCISc Research Project - Template for the Publishable Manuscript

Note: As part of the Research Project fulfillment, you will produce a near publishable manuscript. You will work with your supervisor(s) to identify a target journal and the Research Project will be formatted as per the specific journal's specifications including word count, headings, and reference style.

Additional Resources on How to Write a Research Paper:

Knopf, Jeffrey W., **Doing a Literature Review**, PS: Political Science & Politics , Volume 39 , Issue 1 January 2006 , pp. 127 - 132 www.jstor.org/stable/20451692

Lingard, Lorelei, **Joining a conversation: the problem/gap/hook heuristic**, Perspect Med Educ 4, 252–253 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40037-015-0211-y>

Majumder, K. (2015) **6 article types that journals publish: A guide for early career researchers**. <http://www.editage.com/insights/6-article-types-that-journals-publish-a-guide-for-early-career-researchers#>

Additional Resources: <https://link.springer.com/search?query=Writer%27s+craft&search-within=Journal&facet-journal-id=40037>

Literature Review

Students are required to conduct a thorough and comprehensive literature review which is to be included in an appendix to the Research Project.

Abstract

An abstract is on average 350 words. Formatting will follow those from your target journal.

Introduction

From the literature review, the student will write an introduction appropriate for a peer-reviewed publication in order to:

- Summarize the literature review
- Demonstrate the gap in literature
- Describe the research question/purpose of the study and/or objectives.

Methods

In the Methods sections you will outline the steps you took to identify and recruit your sample (inclusion/exclusion criteria if applicable), collect and analyze your data. An appendix may be required to provide evidence to support methodological choices, e.g., how variables were chosen. You must also indicate whether ethics approval was received or not required.

Results or Findings

In the Results or Findings section, you will report the results in prose supported by tables, figures and/or quotes as appropriate to your study design. An appendix may be required to elaborate more fully on results such as indicating how assumptions of a statistical model were met.

Discussion

The Discussion will summarize at a high level the results/findings and put this in context with other literature on your topic. It should also include a strengths and limitations section and end with a conclusion and suggest next steps for future research in this area.

References

Your reference list and in-text citations will follow the guidelines from your target journal.

Appendices

Your supervisor(s) will help you determine what appendices are needed.

Literature Review: As mentioned above, your detailed literature review must be included as an appendix.

Ethics approval: Must be provided if your study was reviewed by the ethics board. If ethics was not required, a sentence to that effect in the body of the paper is sufficient.

Data Collection Tools: For qualitative research, you will include your semi-structured interview guide. You may also include additional quotes over and above the ones in the body of the paper. For quantitative studies, you will include a data collection tool such as a questionnaire you used.

Additional Methods or Results/findings: You may include additional information about your choice of variables such as a codebook. You may include appendices with additional or supplemental analyzes.

POSSIBLE LIST OF ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN THE APPENDIX

1. Expanded literature review
2. Methods
 - a. Sample size calculation, if applicable
 - b. Questionnaires / Surveys / Interview Guides
 - c. Analytic Assumptions of the statistical model
 - d. Coding template for qualitative studies
 - e. Ethics approval, if required
3. Findings / Results
 - a. Additional quotes for qualitative studies
 - b. List of variables for quantitative studies

SAMPLE TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT OR MAJOR ESSAY

By

STUDENTS NAME

Department of Family Medicine

A RESEARCH PROJECT OR MAJOR ESSAY (please indicate which) submitted
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Clinical Science

School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Western University
London, Ontario

DATE

Supervisor(s):