MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Guidelines for starting a research project

Students in a research project stream should be in communication with their program regarding the steps to completion. Research project papers are not required to go to defense and do not need to be submitted in hard copy. The research project paper will be read and graded by the student's supervisor, and one second reader, selected from Trent faculty members appointed to graduate program or a suitable person who may be external to the program. The paper will receive a numerical grade.

An MRP (Major Research Project) is approximately 50 pages in length and has more flexibilityin terms of format. It may or may not include original research, but if so, it would be smaller in scope than in a thesis

1. The first step in the process is for students to identify a member of faculty willing to supervise their research. This will not necessarily be the student's advisor but should normally be a member of the program's core faculty. If someone other than a student's original advisor becomes supervisor, the supervisor takes on the role of advisor and thereis a very brief form to complete to make this change. Students interested in being supervised by someone who is not a member of the core faculty, should see the directorof the M.Ed. program as soon as possible to explore the possibility.

2. From the initial contact, the student and supervisor should begin discussing any ethical implications of the proposed project.

3. The student should produce a project proposal that is then considered by the supervisor,who then provides the student with feedback to enable refinement of the proposal.

4. In the event that the project has ethical implications, ethical approval should be soughtfrom all the relevant bodies.

5. In addition to the Trent University Research Ethics Board, it may be necessary to seek ethical approval from other bodies. If any work in a publicly funded school is planned, then each relevant school board will need to be approached and an ethics proposal submitted based on the format required for the district in each case. If Indigenous humansubjects will be involved, it will be necessary to approach the leadership of the relevant community in addition to submitting proposals to relevant bodies. Visit www.trentu.ca/ori for support.

6. Major research projects are unlikely to generate material sufficiently original for the issue of intellectual property rights to arise, but it is worth discussing the subject of intellectual property rights at an early stage to ensure there is a common understanding of how the research can be fairly used and credited.

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7. It is also worth developing a strategic timeline to set a date for completion of the project.

8. Students who are only working on their project should simply register for the program, asthere is no specific course for which to register.

9. Once the project is completed, it may be submitted as an electronic or hard copy. It will be read and graded by the supervisor and one second reader who may be selected from Trent faculty members appointed to the graduate program or a suitable person external tothe program.

   The project format will be negotiated between the supervisor and the student incompliance with the following:

   a) The research must be expressed in a satisfactory literary format consistent with the discipline, must display a scholarly approach to the subject, and must demonstrate thorough knowledge.
   b) The digital format is required by all students and will be added to the M.Ed. websitewith permission from the student. For more information on web-based software options see the program office.