

MA Project Rubric

Your MA project, whether it's a thesis or a comprehensive exam, should successfully meet the three MA program learning outcomes. Data on how well our graduate students have met the three program learning outcomes through their MA project will be collected and reported using the rubric below.

	Exceptional	Strong	Developing	Poor
LO1 Analyze and evaluate theoretical, methodological, and multidisciplinary approaches to social issues in Latin America.	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	<p>Analysis is highly detailed and thorough.</p> <p>Insightfully weighs a variety of approaches to a social issue in productive conversation with Latin American(ist) scholars.</p> <p>Main argument(s) sophisticated and very well substantiated.</p>	<p>Analysis is detailed and thorough.</p> <p>Selects and critiques relevant approaches to a social issue in a Latin American country.</p> <p>Main argument(s) clear and well substantiated .</p>	<p>Analysis is superficial, uneven or limited in range/scope.</p> <p>Evaluates approaches to a social issue in a Latin American country to a certain extent.</p> <p>Main argument(s) unclear.</p> <p>Evidence and examples do not always align with an argument.</p>	<p>Analysis is weak.</p> <p>Identifies some approaches to a social issue but does not evaluate them.</p> <p>Lacks a main argument and/or sufficient evidence and examples.</p>
LO2 Plan and create an original research or cumulative project on Latin America.	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	<p>Designs and applies an innovative research (or reading) plan.</p> <p>Thoroughly explains the project's contribution to the field of Latin American Studies.</p> <p>(For thesis only) Data</p>	<p>Designs and applies a solid research (or reading) plan.</p> <p>Clearly explains the project's contribution to the field of Latin American Studies.</p>	<p>Designs and applies a research (or reading) plan in limited ways.</p> <p>Somewhat explains the project's contribution to the field of Latin American Studies.</p> <p>(For thesis only) Data collection</p>	<p>Faulty design or application of a research (or reading) plan.</p> <p>Does not explain the project's contribution to the field of Latin American Studies.</p> <p>(For thesis only) Data</p>

	collection strategies are well justified based on the issues and questions investigated.	(For thesis only) Data collection strategies are mostly justified based on the issues and questions investigated.	strategies are somewhat justified based on the issues and questions investigated.	collection strategies are not justified based on the issues and questions investigated.
LO3 Communicate research to an academic audience in written and verbal formats.	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Communicates research findings (one's own and/or others') in highly effective fashion, both in writing and during defense. No errors in style or writing mechanics.	Communicates research findings (one's own and/or others') in organized fashion, both in writing and during defense. Minor errors in style or writing mechanics.	Communicates research findings (one's own and/or others') in unclear or problematic ways; or demonstrates stronger writing than presenting skills (or vis-a-versa) Consistent errors in style and writing mechanics.	Unable to communicate research findings (one's own and/or others'), either on paper or during the defense. Major errors in style and writing mechanics make the message difficult to follow.