

YEREVAN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AFTER M. HERATSI
FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
GUIDELINES FOR THE MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH PLAN

1. Purpose

These guidelines define the structure, content requirements, and format of the Master's thesis research plan. The research plan is a mandatory academic document that must be approved by the scientific supervisor before the start of data collection.

The research plan also constitutes a mandatory component of the document package submitted to the YSMU Ethics Committee and is used to assess the scientific rationale, methodology, and ethical compliance of the research. Data collection is not permitted without an approved research plan and a positive opinion from the YSMU Ethics Committee.

2. Structure of the Research Plan

2.1. Title

The title should be:

- clear, specific, and scientific in formulation,
- reflective of the main research topic,
- including, where relevant, the target group and/or study setting.

2.2. Introduction and Literature Review (1.5–2 pages)

This section should include:

- relevance of the topic in international and local context,
- analysis of key scientific sources,
- identification of existing gaps,
- justification of the research.

Requirements

- at least 10 scientific references,
- literature from the last 5–10 years,
- priority given to international peer-reviewed articles.

2.3. Research Aim and Objectives (0.5 page)

Aim

The research aim should be a single, clear, and measurable statement reflecting the overall direction of the study.

Objectives (3–5 specific objectives)

Objectives represent the concrete steps through which the research aim will be achieved.

They must:

- derive directly from the aim,
- follow a logical sequence,
- be measurable and feasible,
- clearly indicate what will be studied,
- correspond to data collection and analysis methods.

2.4. Research Methodology (2–3 pages)

2.4.1. Study Design

Specify the type:

- quantitative
- qualitative
- mixed methods

2.4.2. Study Setting and Timeline

- institution/setting where the research will be conducted
- study period

2.4.3. Target Population

- description of participants
- inclusion criteria
- exclusion criteria (if applicable)

2.4.4. Sample Size

- number of participants
- justification

2.4.5. Data Collection Methods

- questionnaire
- interviews
- focus groups
- secondary data analysis
- other

2.4.6. Data Analysis

Specify software and methods

(e.g., Excel, SPSS, thematic analysis, etc.)

2.5. Study Limitations (0.5 page)

Indicate possible limitations:

- sample size
- single institution
- self-reported data
- time constraints

2.6. Ethical Considerations (0.5 page)

Include:

- voluntary participation
- informed consent
- anonymity
- data confidentiality

2.7. Expected Results and Practical Significance (0.5 page)

Indicate:

- expected results
- potential application in the healthcare system

2.8. Timeline

Phase	Timeline
Literature review	
Tool development	
Data collection	
Analysis	
Thesis submission	

2.9. References (1 page)

- Vancouver or APA style
- minimum 10 references

3. Format Requirements

Title page — format provided in Appendix 1 (not numbered and not included in the total page count of the research plan).

The title page must include:

- University name
- Faculty name
- Study program name
- “Research Plan” designation
- Master’s thesis title
- Student name and surname
- Scientific supervisor’s name, academic degree and title
- City and year

Length of research plan: maximum 7 pages

Font: GHEA Grapalat, font size-11

Line spacing: 1.5

References: mandatory

4. Approval Procedure

The research plan must be:

- approved by the scientific supervisor,
- submitted to the YSMU Ethics Committee.

Data collection is not permitted without an approved research plan.

TITLE PAGE TEMPLATE
YEREVAN STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AFTER M. HERATSI
FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MPH in Healthcare Management and Planning

MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH PLAN

Title

“ _____ ”

Master's Student

Name, surname _____

Scientific Supervisor

Academic degree, title, name, surname _____

Approval

Scientific Supervisor _____ /signature/

Date _____

Yerevan – 2026