

Recommended Timeline for Quantitative MA Project

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
<i>1st Year</i>		
Identify subfield (migration, race/ethnicity, health, education, etc.)	Identify Research Question *Can be done by writing literature reviews in courses & talking to advisor and committee members	Identify model article for MA thesis
Begin compiling readings for annotated bibliography (recommend that you start using a reference manager, eg. Zotero)	Finalize Dataset—ensure data can answer question	Clean Dataset(s)
Draft statement of problem (based on the literature, or policy reports, or and news sources)	Identify Research Design -method of data analysis -key analytic/control variables -sample parameters -modeling plan	Draft literature review and write hypothesis
Identify some available relevant data sources (in other articles, via faculty/peers, library, etc.)	Submit IRB by end of semester (as needed) and check in with advisor about IRB submission.	Create Variables
<i>2nd Year</i>		
Data Analysis- Run Models—you will run many more models than you will actually report in the paper	Continue Data Analysis	
Write Data and Methods section	Draft Findings, Introduction, & Discussion and conclusions.	
Outline findings section	Revise multiple drafts with advisor	
Revise literature review as needed based on findings	Defend MA with advisor permission	

Note: Timeline for someone collecting their own survey data will differ.