

#1

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

I had no strong feelings about the thesis.

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

The skills required for a project of this size were something new to me.

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

I felt like I learned a lot of transferable skills.

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Other (please specify):

To be honest, the presentation felt a lot like any other presentation at the end of a quarter. It was still good.

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

I always felt motivated after workshop to work on my thesis. One small note is that I felt like workshop and my reader weren't always on quite the same page. They were close, but on some specifics of what to include in each section there were differences. This may be unavoidable.

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

It was really valuable practicing our presentations together. I just wish our group hadn't fallen apart so quickly. One of the members left our group almost immediately and one left it towards the end.

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

My reader provided a sounding board and provided valuable feedback throughout.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

I started working on this thesis with help from Shangrila Wynn two quarters before. I found that to be a valuable experience.

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

Everyone agreed to do the interviews, but in terms of actual support writing and what not, no.

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

10 dollars for gas maybe.

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

none

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

10 dollars for gas.

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

I would point out how this project's size makes it very different from other projects. For instance, if you are doing an in-text citation wrong from the beginning in a 12 page paper it might be 10 corrections, in a huge paper it may be more like 50.

#2

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Agree

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Neutral

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$0

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

\$0

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

\$0

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Get everything done as early as possible and plan on being pressed for time throughout!

#3

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Disagree

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

I wish the prospectus were discussed sooner to get an earlier start on the thesis process, even just brainstorming and literature review. I felt like the thesis timeline is very short for data collection, analysis and report writing. With all of that said, I was able to produce something within two quarters that I am proud of.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Disagree

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Disagree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

minimal (<\$100)

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

na

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

Couple of cups of coffee and some gas for travel around town conducting interviews = \$50. NVivo software for data analysis = \$100. I was able to borrow an audio recorder from Evergreen media loan office which saved me the expense of buying the equipment. In the end, the optional binding cost more than I was expecting (\$60).

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

WORK ON IT EVERYDAY if possible. When I could get in a consistent groove of working on my thesis everyday, even if it was only 1 hour some days, I accomplished the most. The consistent effort held my focus. It is a lot of work but it goes by quick.

#4

COMPLETE

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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Neutral

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Neutral

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Agree

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Agree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$600

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

I was given support from an off-campus advisor

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

Around \$500 for camping equipment when I preformed a high-mountain amphibian survey

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Start in the Summer so you can finish on time!

#5

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

I think knew it was a part of the program, but not a main draw for enrolling

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

The only way to really know something is to do it! Even if it is not perfect. It made me actually use research design methods and data analysis (especially statistics programs).

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree**Q4** The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

Yes, although I would say that maybe a prospectus should be due earlier to make sure there is enough time for data collection (although I know driven students use the summer months for this, an earlier deadline in the program could be useful for all)

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Other (please specify):

It made the research seem 'real' and gave a very tangible goal with enough pressure behind it to work towards.

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

I honestly was not thinking much about the thesis in the first year; other than a brainstormed list of topic ideas. Though RDQM was invaluable to my thesis as I used previous RDQM labs to help me through the data analysis.

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

Case Studies (which I took two years ago) was fairly helpful in that we were able to tailor research that we looked at to be in our thesis field. But, the course structure was a little 'removed' from practical skills.

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

I think the thesis workshop is a necessary component in keeping everyone on track with the writing and providing the right kind of peer pressure. Also, Kevin's lectures in writing skills were applicable beyond the thesis. The cover letter workshop was also pretty great (although less relevant to me personally).

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

I am borderline disagree only because my thesis group disbanded because of thesis extensions for almost everyone in the group. I did try to be a leader in the group and advocate for group study meetings, but only one person really took me up on these. I know they would have provided me with more feedback had I actually asked them for it (beyond our first couple of workshops). I have had valuable experiences in other peer review groups, however.

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

Again, had I reached out for more help, I am sure I would have received it. As it was, my reader was very supportive, understanding, and motivating to my work.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

Same as my earlier comments, I did not reach out to other faculty (much), but know I would have gotten more help if I had. I did get some valuable help from Kathleen regarding statistics questions (and Carrie when I caught her in the CAL!)

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

I did reach out to a nonprofit in California to ask permission for use of a curriculum model that they had developed. I also worked (a bit) with a researcher in Maine whose project I was utilizing for my thesis. My first round of thesis work was conducted with a LOT of support from several nonprofits, government agencies, and even a statistician outside of Evergreen.

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$0

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

\$0

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

I did have to take several days off of work to conduct my data collection.

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Unless you start very early and with a lot of support from others, choose something within your own field of expertise and background.

#6

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Agree

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

I started my thesis a little early and I think it really gave me an advantage. I think it would be beneficial for all students to start a little earlier.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Neutral

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Neutral

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Agree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$0

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

\$0

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

\$0

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Think of your candidacy paper as your mini-thesis. Definitely try to do it on something closely related to what you would like to research. It can take a huge load off of your plate if you have lots of reading and some mental analysis under your belt. Then, you can start planning for your actual thesis project earlier and be less stressed out during crunch time next year!

#7

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Neutral

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Disagree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Neutral

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

Our group did not get along very well.

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

Mike was the best thesis reader!

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Neutral

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

NPS and USGS.

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

Around \$300.

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

None.

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

\$40

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

I would say that they should either have their thesis idea already and start data gathering in the summer in between 1st and 2nd year, or start formulating their thesis topic during that summer in between 1st and 2nd year.

#8

COMPLETE

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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

Personally, I think it would be more beneficial to have thesis topics solidified and approved by faculty (not necessarily the whole prospectus,) by the end of Spring Quarter in the first year.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

Kathleen could not have been a better reader, I appreciate her dedication, patience, and support.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

Plane tickets - ~ \$1500

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

No monetary support but received support from the NGOs that I worked for in terms of housing, travel, and food.

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

Nothing aside from ~\$1500 for flights.

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Look at it as a project that allows you to show you can do proper research and that is outside of your comfort zone so you can grow in the process.

#9

COMPLETE

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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

Start the thesis process at the very beginning of the program
(ie give people more than two quarters to conceive, collect
data, and write their thesis)

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

The only thing that actually contributed to my thesis in the
first year was feedback I sought out from faculty individually.

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Neutral

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Disagree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Disagree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$7000-\$10000

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

I received an NSF grant (EAPSI) that paid for all expenses for my thesis.

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

\$0

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Rely on yourself, have an idea of your thesis before the program even starts, look for as much outside help as you can because MES is going to help you very minimally. If you aren't somewhat independent and self driven don't even bother with the program because you are will probably not gain anything substantial from the core classes that you need to complete your thesis.

#10

COMPLETE

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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Agree

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

It seemed like only half of the cohort was able to finish in time.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Agree

Other (please specify):

I didn't really receive any feedback from my presentation, but it was good to hear the questions people have.

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

RDQM really did not prepare me at all. We heard three different opinions on stats from three professors who had never taught stats. Is it possible to cycle in an undergrad professor who has taught stats? Or less lectures and more workshops. gCORE and ESS were great, but I'm not sure how much they prepared me for my thesis. The most helpful part (specifically for thesis) was working with the cohort and hearing their ideas.

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

I thought about half of the class was useful and half of the class seemed like fluff. It felt like we were being kept til 10 PM every night for nothing. I appreciate reading over other people's work and getting started on my literature review. This class doesn't need to be 2x a week 6-10.

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

These were great! I appreciated the structure and the job/resume/cover letter section.

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

My peer review group was hands down the most valuable and used resource I had. 10/10

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

There were times that I felt completely lost and alone during the thesis process, but there was always support to be found.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

I didn't seek additional help, though I probably should have.

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

My boss was really extremely helpful when it came to support!

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

~\$350

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

I received help through SPP.

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

I didn't spend any of my own money except for gas money.

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Stay confident, you got this!

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Neutral

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Disagree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Neutral

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Neutral

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$500

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

Sustainability Fellowship, support from WSU Puyallup, MES lab consumables fund

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

Not quite finished yet, but I've spent around \$200 for lab supplies (pvc tubing, centrifuge tubes, cyanide reagent...)

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

You never can start too early, carve out time regularly in the first year to narrow down potential research topics, questions, resources. For lab based work, plan on extensive methods development, and time to test out various methods before starting to gather data for your thesis. A lab based thesis may need to be a full-time 3 year track, which is intensive but extremely rewarding.

#12

COMPLETE

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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

The opportunity to choose my own research project was the main appeal of the program.

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree**Q3** The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

This response would be a "strongly agree" if I had started the thesis project in the first year. In the hustle of trying to complete research in the second year, professional development is more of a byproduct than an intention.

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

The thesis should start in the first quarter of the program. I think that the core classes should be 6 credits and 2 credits of thesis each quarter during the first year, to make time to build strong research. This could lower the rate of students that require an extension. Alternatively, if core classes were 6 credits and there was a 2 credit mandatory skill session each quarter, this could prepare us more thoroughly for independent research.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Disagree

Other (please specify):

Audience is small and less high-stakes than other graduate programs, so it seems less serious. There were no critical questions- the presentation felt more like an obligatory pat on the back.

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

There was no support during the first year. There was the attitude of "don't worry about your thesis yet".

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

The thesis workshops were pointless. They did not help with actual research issues or logistical support.

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

My peer review group just liked to pat each other on the back and say things like "adulting is hard", which was not helpful in any way. Each member of my group ended up getting extensions. I believe that my lack of help from the group when it came to reviewing chapters and motivational support contributed to my decision to also extend.

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

"You can do it!" is not enough to get a student through the arduous process of a thesis. Also, my reader would take more than a month to review a small chapter.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

Each time I approached faculty other than my reader for support, they referred me back to my reader, citing their workload or lack of interest.

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Strongly Disagree

Comments::

I had no idea how to go about getting external support. There is an expectation that MES students should come in knowing how to do this already. What external support I was able to muster was more of like a "cool research idea, good luck with it", rather than any usable advice or funds.

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$2000

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

Only funds from the MESA professional development fund.

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

Respondent skipped this question

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Have a project in mind BEFORE starting the MES program. Make sure you have external support because the MES faculty is too overworked to help.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 The thesis requirement was a major reason for my decision to enroll in the MES program.

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

Skill development was my primary motivation for pursuing a masters degree.

Q2 The thesis project contributed to my intellectual development (e.g. critical thinking, data analysis, writing).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q3 The thesis project contributed to my professional development (e.g. specialized knowledge, technical skills, collaboration or networking).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

Building on a summer internship, I was able to increase my professional development after the summer ended. In part, this led to landing a full-time position with this agency.

Q4 The overall timeline for designing, researching, and writing the thesis makes sense in relation to other components of the program. (If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate how you would modify the existing timeline.)

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

MES candidates put a lot of pressure on themselves for the thesis. Overall, I think the structure works well, although the problem of collecting data between your first and second year remains a conundrum since most students have not yet written a prospectus.

Q5 The public presentation was a valuable opportunity for me to share and receive feedback on the most important elements of my thesis research.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Other (please specify):

There should be more opportunities for public presentations!

Q6 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the first-year core sequence (gCORE, ESS, RDQM).

(no label)

Agree

Q7 I received valuable support for my thesis work in Case Studies and Thesis Design (fall quarter).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

This was the most beneficial class for me in relation to my thesis.

Q8 I received valuable support for my thesis work in the thesis workshop (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Agree

Comments::

In general, I felt I was behind on my writing, which was a problem because I rarely had the writing for that particular class finished.

Q9 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my peer review group (winter and spring quarters).

(no label)

Disagree

Comments::

I did not have an active peer review group.

Q10 I received valuable support for my thesis work from my faculty advisor / reader.

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

Ted was always available, either in person or via email. He gave consistent feedback and encouragement throughout.

Q11 I received valuable support for my thesis work from other MES core faculty beyond my faculty advisor/reader.

(no label)

Neutral

Comments::

I did not reach out to other core faculty for my thesis work.

Q12 I received valuable support for my thesis work from experts beyond Evergreen (e.g. advisors in government agencies, NGOs, private sector).

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Comments::

I reached out to Dept of Ecology, Mike Ruth, and various authors from influential publications relating to my research.

Q13 When you began your thesis work, what were your estimated out-of-pocket expenses for your research?

\$250

Q14 What kind of support, if any, did you receive through fellowships or grants to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses?

none

Q15 Upon completion of your research, how much did you contribute in out-of-pocket expenses to support your thesis work? (Please be specific in your breakdown of expenses. Note that this does not include expenses associated with your cost-of-living.)

I was probably pretty close. Most of my expenses related to gas money, but this is in large part because I live in Tacoma. Many trips were made to Lacey at Ecology hq and evergreen campus.

Q16 If you could give one piece of advice for a student about to start their thesis, what would it be?

Talk about your thesis frequently. The less insular you are in the thesis process, the more likely you will be comfortable presenting/discussing your own subject material, potentially learning something new, and feeling connected to a broader community. The feeling of being isolated was my biggest challenge.
