

# Request to Extend Thesis Research

Graduate Program on the Environment

The Evergreen State College

Graduate students who require additional time to complete their thesis work may request an extension for the Summer or Fall quarter immediately following the Spring Thesis Workshop. The extension must be requested by the student and approved by the reader and the MES Director. Starting in 2017, students who are approved to continue work on their thesis will be signed up for a one-quarter extension and pay an extension fee of \$500.

If the student does not complete the thesis by the end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program. Reader: Please attach any further stipulations for thesis completion.

I, \_\_\_\_\_Skyler Specht\_\_\_\_\_, request an extension to complete my thesis in (choose only one quarter):

☒ X Winter Quarter 2022                      OR                      ☐ Spring Quarter 2022

I also understand that I must pay the \$500 fee to extend my thesis work for one quarter.

I have read the information outlined in the MES Student Handbook about the services I can use at Evergreen while I am a thesis extension student.

I have attached my answers to the questions below to this form.

1. Describe your progress on your thesis thus far.
2. Describe the reason(s) for not completing your thesis by this quarter's deadline.
3. Provide a detailed plan for completing your thesis during the next quarter.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Thesis Reader / Date)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Director / Date)

*1. Describe your progress on your thesis thus far.*

When I initially started working on my thesis project, I did not anticipate that I would be working full-time in the field my topic was based on. Fast forward to today, I have almost two years of full-time experience as a stormwater inspector and my understanding of my original thesis topic has completely changed. If I had completed my thesis topic the way I had originally outlined in my first thesis prospectus, the lasting effort of the thesis would have been lost as I have gained a tremendous amount of insight throughout this time that would not have been gained otherwise. In spending this time working in the field, I have identified where my time can best be spent to further stormwater understanding among municipalities in Washington State.

Thus far, I have a strong literature review and foundational background of the topic that has strengthened heavily over time. I have changed my methodology for the final time so that I can continue research from an existing study using new data. The study I found that I would like to continue is highly relevant to my original thesis design and will allow me to use existing raw data instead of collecting my own through interviews. I have begun compiling my data, have methodology set up and am re-visiting my literature review to encompass the new changes to my design. The changes that I have made to my thesis have made it more streamlined and, in all honesty, more relevant than it ever was before. I am proud to be able to say I am excited about the work I have done and the work that is cut out for me to finish this thesis.

*2. Describe the reason(s) for not completing your thesis by this quarter's deadline.*

The past months have been very difficult for me with a combination of mental health factors in addition to losing my beloved dog of 14 years a few months back. I have made great strides this year in finding proper services to address my mental health and have found a counselor that works well with me. I will be working closely with him throughout this final stretch of my thesis to ensure that my mental health stays a priority.

As previously indicated, this quarter I have changed my thesis methodology to allow me to continue research from a previous study using a different (newer) dataset. The time spent on identifying this change will be highly practical as my previous study method would have required me to spend a considerable amount of time conducting, transcribing, and coding interviews before I could get to the meat of the study. In changing my study design, I have taken a lot of guesswork outside of my comfort zone (interviews) and focused on something that is comfortable, practical, and relevant.

I have worked with Ralph to identify this change and we both have agreed that this is the final form of my thesis research, and that I am to complete said research by the end

of Winter quarter. I am devoted to completing this project within that timeframe and will be happy to meet anytime to discuss anything I have described in this question further.

*3. Provide a detailed plan for completing your thesis during the next quarter.*

November 2021

- Data compilation (existing data, just needs to be compiled).
- Work on literature review to align with new thesis methodology.
- Draft methodology.

December 2021

- Data compilation finished by beginning of December.
- Continue editing methodology as I compile, analyze, and interpret data.
- Complete data analysis and interpretation.

January 2022

- Finalize methods section
- Write results and discussion sections based on analysis and interpretation.
- Prepare ArcGIS infographics, tables, graphs, appendix items.

February 2022

- Finalize all other sections, format thesis.
- Prepare to present thesis.

March 2022

- Final edits.
- Present thesis.