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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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, \_\_\_Raquel Sejour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, request an extension to complete my thesis in (choose only one quarter):

\_X\_ Winter Quarter 2021

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. Over the summer I decided to completely restart my thesis with a new concept. This new concept came from a paper that I was a contributing author for over the summer which is still under review. “A Reprieve from US Wildlife Mortality on Roads during the COVID-19 Pandemic”, Fraser M. Shilling et al., *Biological Conservation,* in which the author compares percentage changes in number of wildlife/vehicle collisions as a result of quarantine measures taken across the country this year. My contribution to this paper involved cleaning and transforming data from Washington state for this paper.

Over the course of cleaning and processing data that was specific to the Shilling paper, I also went a step further and mapped more than 700 collisions in GIS, and gathered and cleaned novel data including species specific collision data. I have a number of avenues to move forward in writing a paper that looks specifically at how Washington state has benefited from the Stay at Home order put in place this year including amount of money saved and individual number of animals saved from species to species. The majority of data collection has been done, however some simple statistical analysis is still needed.

Aside from the very time-consuming data collection process, essentially all of the writing for this project still needs to be done because I am starting over from the ground up. Background research with regards to road ecology and animal vehicle collisions has been the extent of my job at WSDOT thus far so I would like to think I have a head start in terms of collecting literature and understanding the questions that I plan to ask.

1. Initially, during the beginning of the Stay at Home order, issues accessing the lab really slowed down my progress. As time has gone on I have taken on a much larger role in my job at WSDOT, which afforded me the opportunity participate in Shilling’s research. However, my thesis work fell to the wayside. When I realized how many hours I had put into someone else’s paper I decided to try and use that work to my advantage. A large amount of the work that I did for Shilling was never used in his paper. That is time I could have spent working on my thesis, and I am hoping to correct that mistake retroactively by redirecting my project’s topic and taking advantage of hours that I have already put in.
2. My goal is to follow a similar schedule as I would have if I had simply restarted my thesis this quarter. I will write a new prospectus before Thanksgiving Break (November 20), and a new Literature Review before the end of fall quarter (December 18). Over winter break I will finish any further data analysis to be done so that it is ready for review by John K on the first day of the quarter (January 4). From there I will finish the writing of my thesis over winter quarter so that I can submit a complete draft in March so that I am on time to present in spring quarter. Because this bulk of the remainder of this project is independent work I will be able to finish all of my writing from home without access needed to any equipment or outside resources.