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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_\_\_ Summer Quarter 2021 OR \_X\_ Fall 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: \_\_\_\_Sarah Hamman / 4/27/2021\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Thesis Reader / Date)

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

1. Describe your progress on your thesis thus far.

I spent a good portion of winter quarter procuring supplies and materials for my research project, including the plants I needed (through purchasing and harvesting). All plants were potted and the experiment fully setup by March 1st. I have been monitoring, watering, fertilizing, etc. since then. After a total of 12 weeks of growth I will begin harvesting the plants and drying them and collecting dry biomass data. This starts on May 11th.

1. Describe your reason(s) for not completing your thesis by this quarter’s deadline.

There are two primary reasons why I have not completed my thesis yet. The first is that my research project involves plants, which take time to grow. I simply didn’t have the available time to grow them to a sufficient size before harvesting, drying, and weighing. Second, with COVID-19 protocols and time delays, it took much longer to procure supplies from the SSC than I had anticipated. Additionally, I needed to mix my own soil and pot 210 plants into 120 1-gallon pots, which took far longer than I ever thought it would!

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

Harvesting and drying the plants will begin on May 11th with my final harvest day on the 24th. Drying each batch will take 24 hours and each plant will be weighed immediately after drying. I should have my dataset completed by the end of May. After this I can start statistical analyses and work on writing the appropriate sections of my thesis. Between now and harvesting/drying, I will be working on adding a section to my literature review and editing my methods section. I fully plan on finishing by the end of Summer quarter, I only chose Fall quarter in the above form because the cost is the same and just in case some unforeseen obstacle delays completion of my thesis.

I’m attaching a photo of two of the pots to show my progress as well as the dramatic difference between *Geum macrophyllum* grown in the absence and presence of Herb Robert!

