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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_X\_\_ Spring Quarter 2021

I also understand that I must pay the $500 fee to extend my thesis work for one quarter. (For those who are completing their thesis during COVID-19, we will waive this fee for students who were not able to complete their thesis as the result of COVID-19 and the governor’s stay-at-home. Please answer question #4 below if you are requesting a fee waiver.)

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.
4. If you were not able to complete your thesis as a result of COVID-19 and the governor’s stay-at-home, please briefly describe these circumstances.

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

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

1. I completed Case Studies in Fall ’20. I took time off to move and start a new job in Spring and Summer of ’20. I received IRB approval for my survey instrument and completed data collection in Fall ‘21. I am currently working on data analysis with support from Shawn.
2. The biggest challenge to completion has been my own health. IRB approval did take longer than expected due to COVID, but the larger limit has been the energy that I have been able to dedicate to my thesis. I have an autoimmune condition that can cause fatigue and brain fog. My condition is coupled with a full-time college farm management position that is draining in its own way. I am fully committed to completing the thesis and I believe I will succeed with more time.
3. My plan is to complete data analysis and tables this quarter while Shawn is still able to offer her full support. In Spring ’21 I will write and present, with Shawn able to review drafts in the latter half of the quarter.
4. As described above, the single largest barrier to completion has been my personal health. I have a weakened immune system, so COVID is of heightened concern. Most of Fall ’21 was spent waiting for IRB approval to my survey and I am grateful that Coral Garey in Institutional Research was able to turn the survey around so quickly and send it out prior to the end of the year.