

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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

☒ Spring Quarter 2021 (*SUMMER TURN IN*)

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.

In the previous quarter working with Shawn Hazboun, I finalized all preparation for the interview stage of my research. I completed writing my thesis interview questions, was approved to begin interviews through the IRB Human Subjects Review application and have completed one interview thus far. My focus winter quarter was to work out any kinks out with the interview process and qualitative analysis portion of my thesis with Shawn before transitioning to a different thesis reader.

In terms of writing, I have completed most of my literature review and methodology sections. Each of the other sections are on my thesis work calendar outlined in question three.

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

When I first started the MES program I was working at Domino's delivering pizzas. I knew I wanted to work in the stormwater industry, but I did not know what that meant to me at that time. Fast forward to now and I have gone through a year-long internship with the City of Olympia as a stormwater inspector and GIS intern, and have now completed my first year as a full-time stormwater inspector for Thurston County Public Works. Throughout this process, my thesis question has evolved with the continued real-world on-the-job experience I have gained.

I am grateful for the insight I have gained and the heightened understanding of my research topic, but I have focused far more on my career than on my thesis work. However, I have re-evaluated where I am at and have newfound hope and drive to succeed in completing my thesis close to the same time as my fiancé, so we can get on with our lives and continue finding our place in this ever-evolving world. I believe that having a new thesis reader and a fresh timeline will ensure my success in finishing out this program strong.

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

Per my discussion with Ralph Murphy, I am going to set aside 3-hour time slots for myself throughout the week and go no longer than two days without working on my thesis. On a google calendar synced with my phone I scheduled thesis working hours for myself recurring on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If I complete all three working sessions, I can have the weekend off, if not that time must be made up for during the weekend.

In terms of a plan for completing my thesis, I would like to complete my thesis and turn it in by the Summer 2021 deadline to be realistic with working a full-time job and using qualitative interviews as my data source. I will coordinate with my thesis reader as I understand they are not under contract during the summer. My outlined schedule:

April

- Formalize list of municipalities I will be seeking out for interviewees.
- Reach out to the stormwater program manager from each municipality via email to introduce thesis and call for interview participants.
- Start scheduling interviews via zoom.
- Writing: Continue writing **Methods** section.

May

- Continue reaching out and scheduling interviews.
- Conduct interviews.
 - Transcribe interviews.
- Writing: Continue writing **Literature Review**.

June

- Assess how many interviews have been scheduled. If more interview participants are needed, seek out additional interview participants. All interviews must be scheduled by *June 15th*.
- Conduct interviews via zoom.
 - Transcribe interviews.
 - Start coding interviews.
- Writing: **Introduction**.

July

- Transcribe the last of the interviews.
- Finish coding all interviews.
- Begin working on thesis document formatting.
- Writing: **Results & Discussion**

August

- Finish writing all sections, but focus on:
 - Results and Discussion
 - Abstract
- Final revisions, thesis document formatting.

August 23rd: Last day to submit request to present thesis research.

September 4th: Thesis submission due date.

September 7 & 9: Thesis presentations.