**Thesis Extension Questions**

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

I have completed initial drafts of my introduction, methods, literature review, and the discussion half of my results. In terms of data collection and analysis, I have begun coding several RCW’s and am in possession of all of the bills I intend to code. I’ve developed a codebook for systematizing my coding process, complete with definitions I’ve derived from the literature. I also have needed to rework some of my coding definitions for my analysis, which at present, will require me to restart coding each of the 34 bills I have collected. Given that I chose to not use any tools, I shot myself in the foot here to some degree. It’s better that I restarted after only coding a few and making changes to my code definitions. My original plan was to complete multiple rounds of coding all documents before modifying my definitions. Given the timeline I have, I’ve decided that method was beyond my scope of ability.

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

There are reasons both within and outside of my project for not completing on time. Within my project, I ran into an issue on my methodology for coding. Collecting my codes originally relied on a rigorous definition of what I call a “policy-action” which I categorize by degree of leverage. Because RCW sections are hierarchical, and some provisions which I might categorize as a policy action exist as a sub-article to another provision (think like a bulleted list with indented bullets, you have article (1), and then beneath it is article (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(b)(i), and so on). This means that policy-actions are not discrete units, but entangled and interdependent. I had to spend a lot of time deciding how to proceed. At this point, I am choosing to acknowledge it as a weakness of my study design and move past it with a phase of recoding my data with this factor in mind. My initial coding round was based on only coding the articles labeled with a number, and not any smaller parts. However, those sub-articles are also important actions with leverage on the system as a whole. I will be labeling my collected codes with the position they have in the hierarchy so this aspect can be tracked during my analysis. I could also derive the definition of a policy action by looking at my codes after, as a portion of my data analysis.

Reasons beyond my thesis project relate to mental health and burnout. In terms of social support networks, most of my network completely dissolved over the course of fall quarter, dramatically increasing the stress of school and everyday tasks. During November, I also had complications with receiving my medication for transition, resulting in dramatic mood changes and difficulties with intermittent physical pain from the changes. Think of it as third puberty for going off of them, and fourth puberty once I was able to get a refill. In February, due to supply issues, I lost access to my ADHD medication, and had to completely change regimens in March to adapt. This lessened my ability to focus and feel motivated psychologically.

Normally I’m good at compartmentalizing between my personal life and otherwise, but the number of complications simply overloaded my ability to be an effective student to the point where I nearly dropped out. Another component was not feeling safe in my own home over the course of late fall and early winter, and another instance this week due to activities of my roommates I’m not at liberty to discuss. I’ve noticed that when it comes to thesis work, it has been really hard to stick to personal deadlines with these intermittent personal life events. As a result, I need to re-make my entire timeline of work.

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

Utilizing remainder of Spring quarter, my priority will be two-fold. By mid-June, I intend to get a polished draft for review of the following sections to my thesis reader:

* Introduction – submit in week 6
* Methods – submit in week 7
* Literature Review submit during week 10

During this period, I also intend to complete a full round of data coding with my reworked methodology. If each bill takes on average an hour or two of dedicated work to code, this will take up about 40-60 hours of my time. If I split my effort evenly between polishing section drafts and data coding, then I can complete coding by week 9 or 10 assuming 30-hour work weeks. I have now completed all of my electives, so the only other time commitment I have is the Clean Energy Committee (about 5 hours per week) and the office of sustainability (flexible anywhere from 1 hour to 20 hours a week).

This leaves the following tasks to complete during my extension quarter:

* Quantitative analysis of collected codes (how many actions for each degree of leverage) – 10 hrs
* Completing a polished draft of results/discussion, and my conclusion – 20 hrs total
* Figure making – 5 hrs
* Presentation prep – 15 hrs
* Revising of the following drafts (5-10 hours each)
	+ Introduction
	+ Methods
	+ Lit Review
	+ Results/Discussion
	+ Conclusion
* Formatting – 5 hrs

Total: 80-105 hours

My goal is to work 20-hour weeks or more during my extension quarter with the rest of my time dedicated to job hunting. I plan to complete the above tasks in the order they are listed, but don’t want to set specific deadlines at this moment to allow flexibility. In order to check my progress as I go, I will meet with my thesis reader weekly to check in on progress and get feedback as well as a little bit of motivational encouragement. Kathleen is fantastic for that. I intend to frontload the work and get more done in the first half of the quarter such that in the event I am hired, I don’t have to juggle a full-time job with thesis completion.