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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_\_\_ Summer Quarter 2022 OR X Fall Quarter 2022

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.

Thus far, I have accumulated a huge body of literature- luckily for me, there is so much available. I have an expansive, and probably too wordy, draft of my literature review and introduction which have been constantly under revision. I have a solid draft of my methods, although they are wavering as well as I am unsure about what statistical analysis I am going to be running at this point. I have spent an extremely large chuck of my time organizing and cleaning completely raw environment water quality and biological data, which has been sooo much more difficult that I could have imagined. This continuous water quality data (pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, temperature, and conductivity) was, and is, being taken at 13 sites in the nearshore habitat. What I am currently focused on is making “low tide cuts”, or eliminating all of the data that was taken during a low tide (when the sensors were exposed), which is extremely taxing. I have been able to make some preliminary graphs of data, displaying trends for further analysis. My next steps are to assess how to move forward with statistical analysis and make comparisons. I have practiced writing a results and discussion section, however I do not have anything substantial yet. My references are all organized!

Another exciting aspect of this is that with this extension, I will have the opportunity to utilize the biological and environmental water quality data that I’m collecting for work this summer, which could add a great deal of weight to the significance of my project. Although I am slightly disappointed in myself for not being further along at this point, I’m excited to have the opportunity to make this project more robust!

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

Although I had every intention of wrapping up and completing my thesis this quarter, I have not covered as much ground as I had hoped. Fortunate for me (unfortunate for my thesis), I secured a permanent job with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources as a Climate Adaptation and Community Outreach Scientist (Natural Resources Scientist) with the Aquatic Assessment and Monitoring Team (AAMT). My new role, which started in February, has consumed almost all of my time. The AAMT field season began April 18th, the first daytime low tide series of the year, and one of my roles on this team has been to coordinate all nearshore monitoring field work for the summer- including organizing our state-wide citizen science monitoring network. Although I did not anticipate getting this job, especially this soon, I’m grateful for the opportunity. Now that summer field work has been mostly planned, I’ve already recognized the amount of time I can now rededicate to my thesis work. Moving forward, I’m thrilled that my thesis work is now permanently intertwined into what I’m involved with for my job, and I can see how useful this will be for completing my thesis by Fall 2022.

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

I plan on completing my thesis by the end of Fall Quarter 2022.

As I mentioned previously, my focus the past few weeks has been further data cleaning. This has taken un unbelievable amount of time- time series data is a beast, especially when there is a lot of it. I plan to continue forward with data collection this summer, and organization and cleaning of that data as it comes in. Right now, I will continue to clip the low tides from the data that I have while also finishing up a few sections and also charts I’ve created for my literature review.

Next Steps:

1. Continue clipping low tides from environmental data, re-graph trends
2. Clean beginning of 2022 data, graph trends
3. Complete summary charts for literature review information
4. Work on writing discussion and conclusion- outline them
5. Determine statistical analysis techniques (work with Cinde & John) for both biological and environmental data
6. Formulate results, including graphs and tables
7. Revise literature- pair down

Rough Schedule Outline \*I will work with John to make revisions & additions, while also utilizing his expertise in statistical analysis techniques and suggestions about interpretation\*

May: Data cleaning, trend graphing/editing and revising literature review and introduction

June: Analysis & Interpretation/

July: Analysis & Interpretation/Focus shift to results and discussion

August: Finish all data collection + data cleaning/continue editing and revising

September: Data cleaning/compile final results/compile more final graphs and charts

October: Write/revise/remake

November: Write/revise/format/organize/prep for presentation

December: Final formatting/presentation/submit final draft after presentation