Request to Extend Thesis Research

Master of Environmental Studies

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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_\_\_ Summer Quarter 2023 OR \_X\_ Fall Quarter 2023

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.**

I have drafts of each section that I continue to edit and add to. I developed a detailed map for my sampling site in ArcGIS Pro and created a FieldMaps App for field data collection. Additionally, I used the US Soil Survey data to delineate the site by soil order, which overlays the layers created in the main map. I used geoprocessing tools in ArcGIS Pro to generate random sample points throughout the site which were used for data collection. I spent two days out in the field at Cedars Wetland to collect soil cores from 21 randomly selected sample points and sent those samples to Midwest Labs. I received the results from the lab and have been working on familiarizing myself with each different piece of data from the soil analyses. I am working on refreshing my skills in R Studio so that I can run statistical analyses on the lab data as well as carefully selecting which soil nutrients from my results package to include in these analyses.

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

I originally expected to collect my soil samples in May, however, this ended up happening in June. Additionally, I thought that I would be able to complete data collection in one day, but that ended up taking two full days. I then mailed my soil samples to the lab and had to wait for the results to arrive in my online portal. Once receiving these results, I really had to wrap my head around what it all meant in regard to my research as well as general interpretation of the lab report. Going into running the statistics for this data, I realized that I have forgotten a lot of what I’d learned with R in RDQM. By this point, it was time to submit a full draft to my advisor. I’ve realized that I need more time to wrap my head around the statistical portion of my research in order to submit a quality thesis. I’ve also been dealing with an elevated level of anxiety lately – between school and personal life – that has made progress more difficult than usual. I felt it would be best to extend one last quarter so that I can the final product is representative of my best work.

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

I will be working on processing my results through R Studio now that I have refreshed myself with the program and looked into various statistical tests that make sense with the results I have received (plan to complete mid-August). Following that, I will work on developing my results, discussion, and conclusion sections of my thesis (early-September). Then, I will focus on creating and/or selecting figures/visuals to incorporate into my paper. There will also be much time spent on editing what I have completed so far and adding to that. Finally, I will create a PowerPoint presentation and prepare to present at the end of Fall Quarter.