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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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, Ander Pierce, 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_05/04/2023\_\_\_\_ (Thesis Reader / Date)

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

1. I have done a substantial quantity of research and writing. I have collected and read 34 peer-reviewed or technical documents pertaining to my thesis topic (integrated multitrophic aquacultural systems) and included insights from them in my writing. I have a substantial literature review drafted, as well as a substantial portion of my thesis written. The bulk of my time however has been spent building and debugging an R script meant to model an IMTA operation in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which is based off of the models presented by Ren and peer researchers on aquaculturally-applied dynamic energy budget modelling published in 2010 and 2012.
2. I need more time because the model I have been working on is not functioning properly yet, and I don’t believe it will be producing meaningful and accurate results in time for me to draw conclusions from it and present it in May. It is a complex model with over one hundred fields simulating the populations and nutrient flows of multiple organisms in a dynamic environment, and some of its unexpected behaviors require substantial amounts of teasing and troubleshooting.
3. I plan to independently work at my thesis gradually over the summer, and assign a substantial amount of time weekly to its completion throughout the Fall quarter so that I can have a polished and meaningful model for use in my thesis. The page below showcases the process I have diagrammed for completion of my thesis. I am currently in the stage of debugging the interconnected bioenergetic models, and can provide the R script I have written to demonstrate my work thus far.

