**The Evergreen State College**

**Graduate Program on the Environment**

### e:\zz\graph2\tesclog0.wpgThesis Prospectus

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| **Name** |  | **ID Number** |  |
| **Mailing Address** |  |
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| **Telephone** | **( )** |
| **E-mail** |  |

**STUDENT AGREEMENT:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**FACULTY READER APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MES DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Working Title of Thesis. (You are not locked into this title; its purpose is to help you identify the main point or topic of your thesis at an early stage.)
2. In 250 words or less, summarize what your thesis reader absolutely needs to know to understand your research problem and question.
3. State your research question.
4. Situate your research problem within the relevant literature. (What is the theoretical and/or practical framework of your research problem?)
5. Explain the significance of this research problem. (Why is this research important? What are the potential contributions of your work? How might your work advance scholarship?)
6. Summarize your study design. (You might discuss selection of case studies, sampling methods, experimental design, and/or specific hypotheses you will test. You should also address any specialized knowledge or skills that are necessary to complete the research. If applicable, identify the key variables in your study. What is their relationship to each other? For example, which variables are you considering as independent (explanatory) and dependent (response) variable? )
7. Describe the data that will be the foundation of your thesis. (Will you use existing data in publications or gather new data?) In addition, describe the process of acquiring or gathering data. (If you are planning to use existing data, explain the specific source, contact information, arrangement with collaborating agencies, and expectations about use of data and final products of your research. If you are planning to gather new data, describe specific methods, time, place, and equipment that will be required.)
8. Summarize your methods of data analysis. You might also discuss specific techniques that you will use to understand the relationships between variables (e.g., interview coding, cost-benefit analysis, statistical analysis, spatial analysis) and the steps and tools (e.g., lab equipment, software) that you will take to complete this analysis.
9. Address the ethical issues raised by your thesis work. Include issues such as risks to anyone involved in the research, if there are specific reviews you must complete first (e.g., Human Subjects Review or Animal Use Protocol Form), and any other issues. In addition, list specific permits or permissions you need to obtain before you begin collecting data (e.g. landowner permissions, agency permits).
10. Reflect on how your positionality as a researcher could affect your results and how you will account for this in the research process.
11. Provide a rough estimate of the costs associated with conducting your research.  Provide details about each budget item so that the breakdown of the final cost is clear.
12. Provide a detailed working outline of your thesis.
13. Provide a specific work plan and a timeline for each of the major tasks in the work plan. Be as realistic as you can, even though you will probably need to alter this schedule as you complete the tasks. Remember that faculty readers take time to return your drafts. Remember, the final polishing and formatting of your thesis for binding will take longer than you ever imagined.
14. Who, beyond your MES faculty reader, will support your thesis? Indicate support both within and outside of Evergreen. Be specific about who they are and in what capacity they will support your thesis. If you are working with an outside agency or expert, be specific about their expectations for your data analysis or publication of results.
15. List the 3-5 most important references you have used to a) identify the specific questions and context of your topic, b) help with issues of research design and analysis, and c) provide a basis for interpretation. For each reference, explain how your project specifically connects to the source by extending, challenging, or responding to the conclusions, methods, or implications.