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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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):

\_X\_ Summer Quarter 2023 OR \_\_\_ 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. Additionally, I have been working on a map of my site on ArcGIS Pro, using geoprocessing tools to overlay the datasets provided to me by WSDOT in order to establish sample points that are representative of all Cowardin Type/Mitigation Type zones and their overlaps. I’ve also created a portal account with Midwest Labs and selected the soil analysis package that is needed for my research. I purchased my sampling equipment and have been working with WSDOT to figure out a date for data collection (I need to coordinate with WSDOT staff to access the site since it is adjacent to a property owner). We have tentative dates that will be worked out by the end of this week. Once the date(s) are scheduled, I will be able to submit my ‘Volunteer Worker Registration Form’ to be approved by the Wetlands Program Director (just need to fill in the date(s)). I’ve been in continuous contact with one of the Wetland Biologists at WSDOT to access additional documents relevant to the mitigation project (i.e., mitigation plan, construction documents, etc.) that are not on their public server. These documents contain detailed information about the history of the site and will help me explain the ‘why’ for the mitigation project in my thesis paper.

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

My research is focused on wetland soils, so it was not realistic to attempt data collection during the winter. Additionally, since I needed to coordinate my sampling date(s) with WSDOT staff (who are quite busy!), this put my sampling timeline to mid-late May. To allow for time to send my soil samples to the lab, wait for turnaround time, run analyses, and complete my thesis paper, extending through summer was the best option for my study.

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

Soil sampling will be conducted on one or two of the following dates: 5/17, 5/18, 5/24, 5/25. Samples will then be immediately mailed to Midwest Labs, and they estimate a 3-5 business day turnaround time for my selected analysis package. Results will then be posted to my online portal, which should be available by the end of May-early June. During June, I will be running my analyses with these results and will then be able to work on both my Results/Discussion and Conclusion sections. I will have a full draft of my thesis sent to my thesis reader by mid-July and will continue making edits throughout the month. August will be spent fine-tuning my paper as well as producing figures/visuals to incorporate into my paper and presentation. Final steps will include creating a presentation and preparing to present to my peers and community by the end of Summer.