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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_\_\_ Summer Quarter 2021 OR \_X\_ Fall Quarter 2021

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.

Determining a process for collecting data, that honors my community and contributes to the work of decolonization and reintegration into the natural world, has not been easy. My thesis focuses on the process of decolonization, while at the same time being a product of academia. It is important to recognize academia is a colonial agenda and not inherently decolonial. I have had to find the fine balance between honoring indigenous wisdom and practices, while operating in a colonial structure. I have gone through an evolving process to decide on my methods for acquiring thesis data – I have meditated on it, gone to therapy about it, and read books by indigenous scholars on it. Completing the Human Subjects review training made me aware of past harms, and I had to process the fear of exposing my community and lineage. Ensuring that my thesis process incorporates my community and lineage from the beginning will ensure reciprocity and equilibrium. Knowledge is meant to be shared and provide access to growth.

I am grateful to have done the foundational work of developing my thesis process into one that honors and benefits the contributors. Through the help of my reader and the lessons from other indigenous scholars I feel joy to embark on this journey where I once felt fear. Having the right support has made all the difference, as well as honoring the process.

I am confident my thesis work will be a fruitful experience that will contribute to my lineage, as well as discourse with other scholars. I am currently working to to re-write my introduction chapter and incorporating my evolving finds. Re-writing my methods chapter has been a grounding and rewarding experience after working so hard to determine the process. Lastly, with the help of my advisor I have walked many paths, as to how I might contribute to discourse in the academic community. In the past, I have considered focusing on intersectional and varying fields to analyze my finds. At this moment I have decided to focus the conversation on, what is taking place in the medical field regarding medical post-partum care. My thesis will then contribute to the field of knowledge by sharing a very different post-partum care model practiced in my lineage and how the current medical model became the norm.

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

As someone who chose to document indigenous knowledge in my lineage, I have had to be intentional with my purpose. Being aware of the exploitation of indigenous communities and how they continue to be targeted, I had to sit with my intentions and determine a process that would honor my community. In collecting data from my lineage, it is important to me there be reciprocity. This means taking in mind if there will be a toll on my family through the process of sharing, coming up with ways to lessen the impact, and ensuring they will gain from the process. In the same way I am taking, I would like to provide for them.

In March we were devasted to learn one of our close family members had passed away, this loss stopped me in my tracts – it has been difficult to process grief. For this same reason, I did not feel comfortable collecting data during a difficult time for my family. Decolonization is about honoring our community and selves, over production.

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

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| **Month** | **Deliverables** |
| April | April 29: Submit methods chapter for feedback |
| May | May 2: Submit second draft of Introduction for feedback  May 3-5: Review literature on post-partum care  May 9: Submit Literature Review draft  May 12: Meet with reader to review feedback on chapters  May 23: Submit new drafts of chapters: Introduction, Methods, and Literature Review  May 26: Meet with reader to check in |
| June | Data Collection month  Meet with reader to plan out next steps |
| July | Data Collection month |
| August | Trip to Mexico to connect with mother land (8/1-8/20): observational & narrative data collection  Review all data notes and compile/organize  Meet with reader to process data collection & findings  Begin rough draft of Data |
| September | Submit Data chapter to reader  Meet with reader (9/8)  Begin rough draft of Discussion/Analysis (9/12)  Review supporting literature from indigenous scholars  September 26: Beginning of Fall Quarter | Submit Discussion/Analysis chapter to reader  (9/29) Meet with reader to go over thesis progress |
| October | (10/3) Begin Conclusion draft  (10/10) Submit Conclusion chapter  (10/17) Submit all revised chapters once again  Outline Thesis presentation |
| November | Final Edits, formatting, and peer review  Finalize thesis presentation  Present on thesis |
| December | Submit thesis to Evergreen College  End of Fall Quarter |