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end of the requested quarter, it may result in the student receiving No Credit for their thesis and the student being withdrawn from the program.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

\_\_\_ Summer Quarter 2022 OR \_X\_ Fall Quarter 2022

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 made a good amount of progress on the thesis despite limiting factors I faced this year. I have reformatted my thesis question to coincide with the available data. I have my data collected and organized. Currently, I have drafts of the introduction, background, and literature review. Roughly half of the seasonal telemetry maps done as well as a plan for kernel density and hotspot analysis maps. Lastly, I am currently working on determining the best statistical analysis to use for migration data and am halfway through writing the methods as those had to be changed due to my thesis question evolving.

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

There had been a myriad of limitations to my thesis work this year. I have had many issues arise in the last few months that have set my thesis schedule back significantly, from data retrieval issues, thesis question changes, file corruptions and a family tragedy.

 I initially struggled with data retrieval, as I had to relay on outside sources to provide my data sets. It took roughly four months to get the data set of the sea turtle movements from the Sea Turtle Conservancy. I was further delayed because I was unable to retrieve data regarding Florida sea turtle bycatch and thus had to reformate my thesis question to focus on the data, I had available. Reformatting my thesis question caused me to have to redo a large portion of my research and literature review.

Once I had my data, I’ve had to dedicate a large portion of time to organizing it to allow it to function in Arc GIS. Along with organizing my data, I’ve had to overcome my Arc GIS files corrupting and losing significant amounts of mapping work which has further set me back.

My family had a tragic loss in the middle of Winter quarter. During this time, I thought it would be best to focus on my family and healing before returning to my thesis work. Unfortunately, this also set my thesis work back.

The reasons listed above are what have not allowed me to finish my thesis on time and are why I would like to extend into Fall quarter.

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

(Can be edited depending on when Fall thesis presentations are)

May 30th:

* First draft of Methods section
* Final of literature review
* Maps finished (telemetry, kernel density, and hotspot analysis)
* First draft of Introduction

June 30th:

* Data analysis finished
* Second draft of Methods section
* First draft background

July 30th:

* First draft of results
* Finalized methods
* First draft of discussion
* Final draft of background

August 30th:

* Second daft of results
* Second draft of discussion
* First draft of abstract

September 30th:

* Final draft of results
* Third draft of discussion
* Frist draft of conclusion

October 30th:

* Final draft of discussion
* Final draft of conclusion
* Final draft of abstract

November 10th:

* Thesis presentation created
* Final draft of thesis, ready to submit