

**MES Thesis Handbook  
Addendum for MES Students  
Who Started Before Fall 2011**

December 2011

Graduate Program on the Environment

Master of Environmental Studies

The Evergreen State College

Olympia, Washington

Copies of this addendum are available online at: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/thesisresources>

## **Explanation for Addendum**

Throughout the academic years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, the MES faculty worked on adjusting the MES thesis policy to fit new faculty workload changes required by the college and to increase the student thesis completion rate.

Because of these changes, students who started in Fall 2009 and Fall 2010 were admitted during a time of several thesis options as the program adjusted from a firmly-established policy to this new policy.

The current handbook, revised in December 2011, outlines the thesis policy as it pertains to students who started in Fall 2011 or later. All students, regardless of start year, who begin their thesis in Spring 2012 or later will follow the policies set out in the current handbook. In addition, students who started prior to Fall 2011 have a few additional options as outlined below. Please choose your correct start year to see your available thesis options.

### **Start Year Fall 2010**

Students who started in Fall 2010 have the option of choosing the 16 credit thesis as it is outlined in the December 2011 handbook or an 8 credit thesis. Students who choose the 8 credit thesis will be required to take 32 credits of electives (instead of 24) and will take four thesis credits for both Winter and Spring quarters in which they work on their thesis. The thesis workshop is also required for the 8 credit thesis.

All other policies outlined in the December 2011 handbook apply to students who started in Fall 2010.

### **Start Year Fall 2009 and earlier**

Students who started in Fall 2009 or earlier have three options: the 16 credit thesis as it is outlined in the December 2011 handbook, the 8 credit thesis as outlined under “Start Year Fall 2010” above, and the 16 credit thesis as outlined in the June 2008 thesis handbook. For a copy of the 2008 handbook, please see the MES Assistant Director. The third option is usually chosen by students who will need a lot of time to finish their thesis due to field work.

The primary components of the older 16 credit thesis are the following:

- Workshop is not required
- Student must choose three readers instead of one
- Student may only start on 16 credit thesis after having finished core classes and taken 16 elective credits
- Student must register for credits directly with reader on a schedule that student and reader agrees upon, starting in the Winter quarter of their final year
- The thesis presentation is 45 minutes long vs. 15 minutes long

All other policies outlined in the December 2011 handbook apply to students who started in Fall 2009 or earlier.