**UW MADISON**

Tell us why you decided to apply to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, please include why you are interested in studying the major(s) you have selected. If you selected undecided please describe your areas of possible academic interest. (you may enter up to 650 words).

1. Why interested in UWM - academically (based on their food science)
   1. Why food science itself?
2. Why interested in UWM - related to your personal interest → unrelated to foodsci

First draft:

The pressure to choose a major did nothing but grow. I knew I was gravitated towards studying the natural sciences but no specific field in the natural sciences really clicked with me. Every eureka moment I had after finding something that seemingly fit was short-lived.

One fateful day, while watching an episode of *Fresh Off the Boat*, Eddie Huang, the main character of the show, was also in the process of selecting a major for college; in that sense, we were in the same boat. At the end of the episode, Eddie finally decides on a major and says to his mother,”Food engineering sounds cool, I could make my own cereal!” At that moment, the lightbulb in my brain lit up with the brightness of a hundred suns. The phrases “food engineering” and “make my own cereal” surrounded my brain for the next week or so, and I eventually settled on pursuing food science. I explored this field even further by doing research in STEM organizations, and participating in internships and work experience. One internship I did, where I had to create a new flavor for a startup business’ newly released popsicle line, allowed me to express my creative freedom; so far, this was the closest I have gotten to “making my own cereal.”

Before that internship, I had also finished some work experience at an Italian food service. This experience lasted two weeks, and during my first week there, I worked in the pastry kitchen. While in the pastry kitchen, I worked with many dairy products, mainly to learn how to make gelato. Having learned how to make gelato, I became more interested in dairy products and their processing. For that reason, I believe studying in the University of Wisconsin-Madison would be perfect for me. I believe studying in “America’s Dairyland” will give me the playing field I need to further my knowledge in food science, specifically in dairy production and processing. What makes things even better is the amount of dairy facilities in the University of Wisconsin-Madison that I believe will help me further my knowledge in the dairy industry. The short courses offered by Center for Dairy Research particularly intrigue me. What I especially like is that there are courses offered for different dairy products. This gives me the opportunity not just to look at dairy production as a whole, but also analyze and study the processes behind how each different dairy product is created. In the end, I will have a better understanding of how the dairy industry works. Plenty of facilities for hands-on experience are also available for dairy research; the Babcock Dairy Plant is one of these facilities, and I certainly hope I can first handedly learn and experience dairy production processes in this plant, as the products made there, such as ice cream and cheese, are all areas of interest to me.

Another big reason I decided to pursue food science is the push towards sustainability. After my popsicle internship, where I actually worked with plant-based products, my interest in creating sustainable products, among other areas, grew. I believe the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will help me achieve my exploration goals in food science. As sustainability is a main interest of mine, professor Audrey Girard’s laboratory is a match as it specifically focuses on improving food sustainability. Additionally, one of the areas of interest of that laboratory, which lies in plant-based foods, is something I would like to further delve into as per my past experiences.

Outside of food science, debate has been a huge part of my life, having done competitions for over five years. Given the chance, I would definitely take any of the of debating opportunities provided, such as the Wisconsin Speech and Debate Society, and weekly debate sessions since I plan to go further in debate, especially at the university level.