**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. (650 words max)**

“Hi Joe, what can I help you with today?”

Seeing that phone speak back left me in wide-eyed wonderment. “It talks? How could she know my name?” Fascinated by its conversational ability, I’d interact with it every day. To the eight-year-old me, Siri felt real, almost alive to me. It wasn’t until middle school that I learned it was software and programs that powered Siri. Since then, I’ve taken rigorous programming courses like web and game development and pursued independent studies, delving deeper into programming.

During a summer break in high school, wanting me to engage more with the community, my mom brought me to a local orphanage where I met Fashul, a boy with Cerebral Palsy. As I spent my summer helping out at the orphanage, I realized the difficulties Fashul experienced daily. It was heartbreaking to see him staying indoors, staring at his friends who played outside merrily. Wanting to help him, I knew this was the moment for me to try applying my programming skills. Inspired by Siri, I developed a voice-activated 2-D video game - using unity - for him to enjoy despite his disability.

Seeing the mirth in Fashul and the kids as they spoke commands to their characters, navigate levels and defeat enemies made me feel grateful for how impactful simple software can be. It became clear to me how computer science possesses revolutionary power to transform people’s lives.

Majoring in computer science will allow me to continue to explore my interest in game development at a collegiate level. As I pursue my studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I hope to develop more games, using their power not only as a means of entertainment for users but also to stimulate positive social change, communicate ideas, educate generations, and most importantly help more people like Fashul.

At UW, the project-based education used in various classes interests me. I’m eager to take courses like “Introduction to computer science to K-12”, a unique class at UW, where I’d be able to work in teams and teach younger students. Through this, I can solidify my foundations through teaching and exercise collaboration and leadership through workshops, clubs, and activities while also contributing to society.

I also want to conduct research on design mechanisms in games by joining UW’s Graphics Group. I’m particularly intrigued by Professor Michael Glechier’s research on “Effective gaze mechanisms”. I think his idea is really beneficial towards aspects of realism in character designs and will contribute to a more surreal game design and experience. I want to assist him and other members of the group in research. Furthermore, by participating in UW’s special game design program, I’ll kickstart my journey in this research area.

Not only do I want to study game programming techniques, but I also want to research operating systems and memory technology. UW’s SONAR System Research Group is perfect for that. I want to develop cutting-edge operating and memory systems to house game programs. This will allow for more effective processing of game systems to increase performance and quality and pave the path for more advanced and exciting games to come.

Throughout high school, some of my fondest memories were the personal moments I shared with my friends playing various games together. Places like UW's Game Lab provide me with an environment where I can expand my social circle with like-minded people I can game and mingle with and also collaborate on game projects.

Additionally, service has run through years of my life and had a great significance in my high school journey. In college, with organizations like UW's Morgridge Center for Public Service and Coding for Good, I want to continue serving others through activities like campaigns and mentorship programs and also utilize my programming skills for positive impacts.

UW will allow me to foster the skills necessary to strive for my goals and success in future endeavors.