1. Explain, in detail, an experience you've had in the past 3 to 4 years related to your first-choice major. This can be an experience from an extracurricular activity, in a class you’ve taken, or through something else. (150 words)

As I’ve always been keen in math, I’ve always taken higher level math courses at school. I took the Additional Mathematics course for my IGCSE and the Mathematics Analysis and Approaches in Higher Level (Math AA HL) for my IB Diploma programme. The IB Math AA HL dives deep into higher level calculus as well as some basic statistical concepts. I also took computer science as one of my classes to understand more about coding and how computers work in managing data. On top of coding at school, I also did some coding outside. I developed a website that allows users to calculate their BMI and recommend their diet, a web-application that channels food waste to the underprivileged, and a website for a highschool hackathon. Doing all these made me experience first-hand the struggles in programming and allow me to understand coding better. I also participated in a data science bootcamp where I got to clean data, model the data and draw conclusions from it, which are the things that a data scientist does.

1. Describe your personal and/or career goals after graduating from UIUC and how your selected first-choice major will help you achieve them. (150 words)

Imagining myself in a modern work environment where I have a balanced interaction with people, a data scientist sounds like a dream. I would like to help solve the company’s problems using data and present to them the solutions I came up with. I got to interact with people when discussing the problem and the solutions, but I also got my personal working time. . By pursuing a degree in Information Sciences + Data Science, I could learn and focus my studies on the things that I want to do in my career. I will learn how to clean data, process it, and make predictions from it, which is all needed when I become a data scientist. Not only that, but I will also learn how to address the ethical issues found in data science and then apply them in real-world context. Hence, selecting Information Sciences + Data Science as a first-choice major will help me achieve my career goals.