From my perspective, data science is an exciting academic area and the fastest emerging field worldwide, especially in the direction of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Therefore, I am determined to pursue a major in Statistics and Analytics at UNC.

Firstly, I look forward to taking courses like STOR 520: *Statistical Computing for Data Science*, STOR 557: *Advanced Methods of Data Analysis*, and STOR 565: *Machine Learning*. To be more specific, I expect to study concepts like linear transformations, matrix factorizations, and other advanced theories after I actively took some introductory courses in data science this year. Through the learning experience, I developed a comprehensive understanding of data collection, convolutional neural network (CNN) models, Python programming, etc. And my academic curiosity toward such areas was further piqued.

Aside from taking advanced courses and expanding my knowledge, I am also motivated to apply my theoretical knowledge to real-life scenarios by utilizing the abundant research resources provided at UNC. After careful school research, I became aware that UNC’s research work is at the core of AI, Data Analytics, Network Science, and Machine Learning, which match my academic interests.

To conclude, I firmly believe I will fully realize my academic potential by systemically studying data science-related knowledge and devoting it to undergraduate research at UNC. I longed for the opportunity to be a curious, engaged, and driven Carolina student.