**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).**

I have always been intrigued by all things detective-related ever since I was 12. Fascinated by the science behind how police catch criminals, I would spend my free time listening to podcasts and watching YouTube videos on true crime. From the meticulous manner with which a strand of hair is collected or tire marks photographed, I would be blown away by how DNA identification and car ownership makes for a winning combo. Be it in the front line or back office, worm’s eye or eagle’s eye view – the dynamicity that the work demands excite me. As I did an in-depth research as to its feasibility as a career choice back in middle school, I knew I wanted to pursue forensics.

As a forensic scientist, I’d like to be a forensic biologist. Biology is one of the subjects I have always enjoyed learning. From organ systems to diversity, I am especially intrigued by the organic nature of the domain. I remembered staying late after class one semester just to learn more about lymph nodes, a powerhouse of interconnected units which were not part of the syllabus at that time.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I would have the chance to attend courses such as ANAT&PHY 337 — Human Anatomy and GENETICS 467 — General Genetics 1 to lay the theoretical foundation critical to my field of interest. With these on hand, I hope to be able to develop my research skills and develop new, perhaps more effective techniques in criminal investigation. On the flip side, I would also like to attend hands-on courses such as ANAT&PHY 338 — Human Anatomy Laboratory and GENETICS 545 — Genetics Laboratory to further hone my practical skillset.

Adding to that, I am also eager to pursue the Criminal Justice Certificate Program where I’d be able to expand my familiarity with the criminal justice system and take courses such as ‘The Criminal Mind: Forensic and Psychobiological Perspectives and Criminal Law and Justice’ here in Wisconsin. With the required fieldwork, I hope to gain exposure to working with professionals, touching upon reality the industry’s real practices as I develop my tempo for such work all the while forging my first network of connections in the game. Ultimately, I’d like to get the best of both academic and professional worlds as I decide on one of multiple career paths forensics offers. Also, I believe that UW Madison’s collaborative learning environment would set the perfect tone for one of my guiding principles in life.

*Gotong royong*.

An Indonesian terminology meaning “together as one,” my fascination for connecting the dots does not stop in my academic life. As part of the university community, I would love to give back by continuing a small project my friend and I started back in June 2020. Through our hobbies in art and music, we initiated various campaigns to raise funds for those adversely affected by Covid-19. Through the continuation of this project, I hope to engage with like-minded students to ignite creativity and perhaps expand the ways of collecting funds through new forms of media as the *gotong royong* spirit spreads across the campus.

With the myriad of in- and out-of-class opportunities, I believe that UW Madison is just the right community for me not to only understand the human anatomy, but also holistically as a human being.

*Hi Shana!*

*I really like this piece! I think your response is beautifully structured to addressing the different dimensions required by that of the prompt, with every section being equally portioned.*

*With an extra 100 words to spare, though, perhaps you can elaborate a bit more on the fundraising project you did with your friend (e.g. how much did you raise, how did you distribute the money to the needy, etc.). At any rate, keep up the good work!*

*- Matthew*