**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. One case that intrigued me was the Atlanta Child Murders. Wayne Williams was arrested for the murder of 2 people in 1981. The most important evidence against him was the fiber analysis on fibers found on the victims’ clothes which all matched the fibers found in Williams’ car and home. However it was not until later in 2019, with the help of DNA analysis, it was confirmed that Williams was also responsible for 26 other murders. I was blown away by how DNA identification and fiber analysis make for a winning combo. Be it in the front line or back office, a worm's eye or eagle’s eye view – the dynamicity that the work demands excite me. As I did in-depth research for its feasibility as a career choice back in middle school, I knew I wanted to pursue forensics.

As a forensic scientist, I would like to specialize in forensic biology. Biology is an important aspect to forensic science. From small things such as DNA to bigger things like the structure of the human body, they all play a part in criminal investigation. I am especially intrigued by genetics. I remembered staying late after class one semester just to learn about DNA electrophoresis, one of the main methods of DNA profiling in forensics.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I’d like to get the best of both academic and professional worlds as I decide on one of the multiple career paths forensics offers. With the chance of attending courses such as ANAT&PHY 337 — Human Anatomy and GENETICS 467 — General Genetics 1 , I will be able to learn more about how our surroundings affect DNA compositions in order to develop a much more accurate and faster technique of DNA analysis. I would also like to further hone my practical skills in analyzing DNA components and taking an in-depth look at the structure of the human body through ANAT&PHY 338 — Human Anatomy Laboratory and GENETICS 545 — Genetics Laboratory to. I will be able to familiarize myself with the techniques used in forensic science and look into their disadvantages and work on how to improve them.

Additionally, I am eager to pursue the Criminal Justice Certificate Program where I’d be able to expand my familiarity with the criminal justice system. I would like to 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 while forging my first network of connections in the game. I also 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 in June 2020. Through our hobbies in art and music, we initiated various campaigns to raise funds for those adversely affected by Covid-19. We did art commissions and posted covers on Instagram to attract donations. These were methods we thought would reach the most audience and bring the most donations. In the continuation of this project, I hope to engage with different kinds of students to ignite creativity and expand the ways of raising funds through new forms of media as the *gotong royong* spirit spreads across the campus. I hope to work with the Music Matters organization whose mission is to raise money for charities in need.

With the myriad of in- and out- of class opportunities, I believe that UW Madison is the right place for me to deepen my understanding in human anatomy and grow as a scientist. UW Madison will also guide me to achieve my dreams of being at the forefront in the criminal justice system as well as my goal of sharing my interest in both arts and music to people in reduced circumstances.

Hi Shana,

I think you’ve answered the prompt very well. You explained how you got interested in forensics, as well as giving out reasons why UW Madison.

I do have a suggestion for the transition to the gotong royong - I’ve written it down in the comment box.

Other than that, I think you should cut a few words to make the word count. I’ve written a few comments for this.

Overall, good job Shana!