**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 collected or tire marks photographed, I would be blown away by how DNA identification and car ownership 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 an aspiring forensic scientist, I would like to specialize in forensic biology. 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 that 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 develop my research skills and, perhaps, new and more effective criminal investigation techniques involving DNA. On the flip side, I would 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 in analyzing DNA components as well as taking an in depth look at the structure of the human body.

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. Ultimately, 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. 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 as well as posting covers on Instagram to attract donations. We raised a total of 2.7 million rupiah and successfully donated food and self-hygiene supplies to an orphanage and 200 homeless people. Through the continuation of this project, I hope to engage with like-minded 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.

With the myriad of in- and out-of-class opportunities, I believe that UW Madison is the right community for me not only to understand human anatomy but will also guide me to achieve my dreams of being involved in the criminal justice system.

Hi Shana!

I think this is great!

It seems that you know what you want very well and explained the reason behind it clearly.

I only have one suggestion though, for the second last paragraph where you mentioned about giving back and your hope to engage with like-minded students to raise funds (highlighted yellow) - I think it would be better if you could add the significance of doing this in UW Madison. Is it because that UW Madison is known to have a culture of togetherness, a culture that likes to help? I think linking it to UW Madison would make it more specific and stronger. ☺

Overall, awesome job!

All the best Shana! ☺