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One of the most central reasons I am interested in UChicago is its commitment to active learning. I am not a passive student: when I sense a blind spot in something I'm reading, I love to dig in and try to figure out what's being hidden. As such, I'm drawn to UChicago because it's just as committed as I am to the continual questioning of pre-existing assumptions and the unsettling of the mind. In this way, UChicago jibes with my penchant for active learning and my desire to learn beyond the confines of a predefined syllabus.

My appetite for "digging in" makes me especially enthusiastic about UChicago's Core Curriculum. Most importantly, I look forward to diving deep into the Core Curriculum's abyss of thought-provoking readings. The emphasis on primary texts suits my investigatory interests as I find value in connecting directly with the past, in all its complexity. I can't wait to see the world in new ways, as I analyze classical texts from a multitude of perspectives (theoretical, empirical, normative), many of which would be completely new to me. I look forward to learning from my classmates as well: I enjoy collaboration and would benefit greatly from the simple exchange of ideas. Hearing from professors and classmates would further my goal of digging into things as I'm able to absorb diverse perspectives. In particular, taking Global Society for my SOSC requirement would be incredibly valuable to me given my interests, as it'd not only give me an opportunity to consume texts written by thinkers from Thomas More to Jawaharlal Nehru, but it'd also provide me with the opportunity to attain a truly cosmopolitan window into the past. All in all, I see UChicago's Core Curriculum as the perfect way of furthering my intellectual exploration.

Beyond the Core Curriculum, a UChicago education would allow me to explore my current extracurricular passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) through an academic focus. I've had the opportunity in high school to spearhead various DEI initiatives, and have loved being able to have a voice in improving the school's ethos through surveying community needs and implementing procedures that promote greater communication and accountability between the administration and the student body. But all the while, I've also been eager to understand the underlying catalysts and processes behind the hateful notions that target marginalized people. As such, I'm drawn to UChicago's Global Studies major and would intend to pursue the Race, Gender, and Religion Track so I can dig deeper into the theoretical foundations of discrimination. I'm deeply interested in examining the efficacy and consequences of state-based interventions on religious affairs, such as the involvement in religious oppression or the promotion of certain religious ideologies in different corners of the world.

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Another major draw of UChicago's GS major is the opportunity it provides to engage in original research. Ever since researching the historiography of Japanese American internment, I've been interested in investigating the relationship between large-scale political developments and individual attitudes toward Asians and Asian Americans. Specifically, I want to examine how geopolitical relations between the U.S. and Asia can induce xenophobia and impact the lives of Asians and Asian Americans in the U.S. In short, I'm excited by all these academic opportunities afforded by the unique GS major and that align with my own interests in DEI-related inquiry.

The final aspect that attracts me to UChicago is the intellectual dynamism of its student culture. My ideal community is one that allows me to casually and passionately chat about the out-there topics that fascinate me, such as singularity, the simulation hypothesis, and the Paris syndrome. UChicago perfectly fits my desire for such a community. Debating with my peers and professors at UChicago's Night Owls, or at the House table during lunch will continue to inspire my intellectual curiosity. Scav is another key indicator that UChicago is a perfect fit for me: it embodies intellectual curiosity, and its importance to the community speaks to the enjoyment students derive from solving puzzles that require both imagination and intellect. I, too, define fun as an intersection between creativity and thoughtfulness. On the whole, UChicago's exaltation of intellectual rigor complements my love of digging beneath the surface, and I'm excited to immerse myself into a community that embodies this philosophy.