Anya Watson

Throughout high school, I never thought I would go to UW. I wanted to go far away from my home of Sammamish, preferably to some small liberal arts college. I didn’t know much about the honors program at UW. I only thought of UW as some big research school where all my classes would likely be in a lecture hall, being taught by TA’s and grad students. As college was getting closer and closer, however, I changed my mind about going far away. I wanted to stay close to my family, because they are very important to me, which I didn’t really realize until high school was almost over. I had been to UW many times to visit my brother, who is currently a senior here. It was a beautiful campus, but once again, I knew a small liberal arts college was a better fit for me for a couple reasons. One, I wanted to have more access to professors who are very qualified for what they are teaching. Two, I wasn’t sure for a long time (and still am not completely sure) what I wanted to major in, and liberal arts colleges typically have a more interdisciplinary approach to learning. My college counselor at the time told me about the honors program, and explained it was essentially a small college inside of a large one. I decided to apply.

Out of all the schools I got into, UW Honors was the best academic choice. I am very ambitious academically; I took many AP classes in high school and I love learning. As I researched more about the honors program, I became sold that this was the perfect place: it was close to my family, and it had all the benefits of a large school (football games, Greek life, etc.), while also having smaller classes and personal attention from the professors. Not to mention UW gave me a great scholarship and grant. Along with the already low instate tuition, it made UW the best financial option for me as well.

I have many interests that I am excited to explore at UW. I currently am thinking about going to law school, so I want to take some law and LSJ classes and/or join some clubs relating to law. The reason I want to go to law school is because I am very passionate about social issues, so I want to take some classes relating to that as well, also a sociology class and probably a political science class too. However, I want to be a math major. Even though it seems unrelated, math can help develop logic, which will give me an advantage in law, and also in taking the standardized tests for law school. I am half Chinese and have always wanted to reconnect to my roots and take a Chinese language class, so I plan on doing that also.

In terms of less academic things, I am very passionate about music. I want to take some singing and piano classes to improve my skills. In high school I was the bass player in a rock band, and I am hoping to start another one here on campus. I was also president of art club in high school; it is another hobby I enjoy. I want to take art classes, or maybe just join an art related club. There are also some random classes I am interested in exploring on subjects that I currently know nothing about, such as computer science, accounting, and logic. I am looking forward to taking many different classes and learning as much as I can about things I previously have not had the opportunities to learn about. There are so many more classes offered at the UW than there were in high school, so I am trying not to go crazy and take every single class that looks remotely interesting to me. By taking some of these more random classes though, I might find a subject that I am really good at that I did not even know about.

I plan on meeting with my advisor(s) soon to talk over the classes I need to take to apply for my major while also seeing where I can fit in all the interesting electives I want to take. I also want to talk to them about the possibility of getting a minor as well and what that would look like. I hope to do well in the honors program, although it may be challenging.