

**Sample “Why [College / University]” Essay (250 - 400 words):**

I’m excited about majoring in political science, which will allow me to explore American politics to better understand the theory and practice of working through the government to address food policy issues. I’m particularly looking forward to classes such as **“American Political Process”** and **“Persuasive Politics”** to gain an advanced understanding of the process of effective policy making.

Additionally, **UMichigan’s unique Food and Environment Minor** provides an unparalleled opportunity for me to deepen my food policy studies, and I’m intrigued by so many of the program’s offerings. **“Local Food Producers,”** will allow me to take a close look at food production and the history of food sovereignty issues, factors that are crucial in effectively advocating for urban food policy. Further, I want to participate in research with **Professor Leung, who analyzes the health impacts of government food programs.**

Apart from academics, UMichigan offers an amazing number of extracurricular opportunities related to food policy. I’d love to join both the **Sustainable Food Systems Initiative and Student Advocates for Nutrition**, which will provide opportunities for me to help build health-promoting, equitable, and sustainable food systems on campus and beyond. I also plan on becoming part of **Cultivating Community**, which empowers and educates UMichigan students to become leaders in the area of community food systems through community outreach, volunteer activities, and even hands-on organic gardening! Additionally, I’m hoping to host my radio show on food policy and advocacy on **UMichigan’s student radio station, WCBN.**

UMichigan would also allow me to continue pursuing policy writing. **The Michigan Journal of Political Science would be the perfect place for me to publish a piece on food policy,** and as a political science major, I’d love to become an editor of the *Journal* as well.

Finally, I’ve loved being an editor for my high school newspaper, and one of my goals is to **become a writer for the Arts section of the Michigan Daily.** I can already picture myself at a meeting in the *Michigan Daily* newsroom, with a big smile on my face, bouncing ideas and story pitches off of fellow editors and reporters.

**[All of the bolded parts are opportunities unique to this student’s interests and the University of Michigan – you should try to find just as many following the list of examples below.]**

- Did I mention my primary major/academic interests?
  - Including specific classes and specific professors I’d like to learn from
- Did I mention secondary academic interests (maybe research/a minor/a second major)?
  - Maybe on campus events I can show up to at XYZ center?
- Did I show my collaborative/leadership side?
- Did I mention any extracurriculars/groups I’d like to join?
- Did I mention volunteer opportunities in the town or on campus?
- If it’s a big sports school, did I mention taking advantage of that? School spirit?

**Think about all that you do in high school and then connect it to what the school can offer!**