

Dear Professor Kate,

My name is Paige Gritzmaker and I am from Woodbury Minnesota. The words I would use to describe myself consist of adventurous, optimistic, bold, easy going, and sincere. I have played softball since I was 4 years old and also have been a skier since I was 8. I am here at Gustavus to play softball as well. My family is very close and supportive and it has already been difficult being apart from them. I have a brother who is a junior baseball player at Winona State as well. In my free time I spend a lot of time traveling with my family, especially to Scottsdale, Arizona and Avon, Colorado. I love traveling whether it is the beach or mountains and have been to many national parks and beaches. Most recently we were in the Caribbean in St. John-the virgin islands which were super cool. In March I went to Rome, Venice, and the Amalfi Coast in Italy with my mom, friend and her mom as well. For work, I have been a host at the restaurant Crave for over a year and also part of the food and beverage team at Afton Alps since 2022-seasonally. This was nice as a skier because I got a season pass for free. Over winter break I am hoping to get my CNA to get bedside experience as I am working towards a nursing major here. I am potentially interested in minoring in public health as well. I enjoy reading Colleen Hoover books along with murder mysteries occasionally. After getting my bachelors degree I am looking forward to working as a nurse for a few years and then eventually getting my masters or potentially going to PA school.

After visiting many schools, mostly in Minnesota the campus at Gustavus stuck out to me the most. I was always against a school this small, but now that I am here it still feels like there are a lot of students and the campus is the perfect size and fit for me. The close knit relationships and community like feeling was super important to me. I still feel like I'm far from home but in reality I'm just over an hour away. In addition, I had connections with one of the softball coaches and some of the upperclassmen here so I felt extra comfortable which definitely impacted my decision making. For this FTS class I heard it was fun and not super difficult which is why I put it as one of my top choices and I ended up getting it!

In high school I enjoyed my math classes, mainly because I had good groups of people to work with in the classes, not necessarily the subject and it was relieving to find I don't have to take any math classes in college. I enjoyed sociology and psychology as well. Unfortunately I don't have a favorite subject, but I will have to get used to taking science classes as there are many nursing prerequisites. My confidence in research and writing is decently high as I had to do quite a lot of it in my 12th grade English class. Researching and writing can take me a while to get going but once I do get in the groove it is normally successful. I am a decently strong reader and writer I would say but it can depend on the topic. I do not have any fears or concerns for this class and am overall excited to get in the groove of taking classes and getting to know my professors and classmates.

Paige