All right, so it's right at six o'clock.
We are gonna kick off right on time tonight.
Again, thank you for taking some time out of
one of your weeknights to come join us this evening.
Congratulations also, you are all admitted Suffolk students.
So I know this whole college search process
can be pretty grueling.
So definitely take a moment, savor this.
We're so excited that you're considering us for
your collegiate journey.
And we're very excited
that we're able to welcome you into the class of 2025.
So congrats there.
My name's Olivia Harris.
I'm one of the Admissions Counselors
in the office of undergraduate admission.
I work with students from Florida, Hawaii,
Central Massachusetts, and the Pacific Northwest.
So if you happen to be from any of those regions,
I likely read your application
which was always kind of a cool thing to throw out there.
But in a felt me, I would love to get this event started.
So you are joining us tonight
for our program on our accelerated degree programs.
So we have with us a wide variety of people.
We have Kate, who Katie will be representing
our accelerated graduate programs.
We have Sharon Lenzie who we'll talk a bit
about our accelerated law program.
And then we have some wonderful alum
and student combos here to talk a bit
about their experience in the program.
Throughout this evening, you'll have plenty of opportunities
to pose questions and interact with our panelists.
So if you look at the bottom of your screen,
if you'd like to pose a question, feel free to post it
in the chat or the Q&A, anything you put in the chat
will be seen by everyone attending.
So keep that in mind, if you wanna do something more private
maybe use the Q&A, if not, you're free to use the chat.
So with that, I will turn it over to Katie.
- Thanks, Olivia.
Hi everyone.
Welcome.
All right, so my name is Katie Theriault,
I work in the office of Graduate Admission.
As Olivia mentioned, I'm joined tonight
by Dean Sharon Lenzie and guest speaker as Humza Usman,
a current accelerated student in our masters
global public policy and Kayla Durkee
who is a Double Ram and graduate of our MS and accounting.
I've thrown up the agenda here.
We will take questions as Olivia mentioned throughout the session. Again, you can use the Q&A function or the chat function and we'll also leave time at the end for questions. So let's get started. Congratulations again, as Olivia said you're all admitted Suffolk students, maybe for some of you graduate school has always been part of that plan. Maybe for some of you, someone in your life encouraged you to be here tonight but I just wanna commend you on taking the time to learn about your options and invest in your future. I'm gonna encourage you all to take just a moment to think about some reasons why you might want to consider graduate school. Some of the most obvious and tangible reasons include more opportunities, increased respect and credibility and the ability to ultimately command a higher salary. Earning a graduate degree means investing in yourself. You have heard, I am sure about the positive impact that attaining a bachelor's degree has on both your employability and earning potential. Pursuing a master's degree increases your long-term earning potential and makes you even more recession proof than a bachelor's degree alone. Here is the most recent data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics that illustrates my point. Preparing yourself now for the future pays off not only in your employability, but also in your long-term earning potential. For example, on average, people with a professional degree earn about $32,000 more per year than those with a bachelor's degree alone and who doesn't love that. These are averages just as a reminder, across all types of degrees, for some even more in high demand fields, the pay difference is even greater. Prospective students also state that pursuing a graduate degree will help them get noticed in the job market. For some disciplines, it has a minimum requirement for the next level or even entry level jobs. Recent LinkedIn research from 2016 found that 85% of jobs are filled via networking. In fact, some experts estimate that upwards of 70 to 80% of jobs aren't even published, but instead filled through connections, graduate school is a fantastic way to expand your connections within the industry and specifically within the discipline you want to work in.
So within our Sawyer Business School, I'm gonna talk about both our fast track program and our four plus one program. We have quickly gone over why you should overall be thinking about a master's degree. Specifically the fast track is a unique benefit for a top Suffolk student and even more of a reason why you should not only be considering a master's degree, but why you should ultimately be considering getting one here at Suffolk.

Within our Sawyer Business School, qualifying students can earn BMS and accounting, MS in finance, MS in marketing or MS in taxation in as few as nine months of full-time study and 21 months of part-time study. You may also earn a variety of our dual degrees in as few as 16 months.

Our fast track enables qualified students to take one graduate class each of your final two semesters included in your undergraduate tuition, which for any parents in the room means that that grad class is free. It is important to stress that graduate credits will not count as credits towards your undergraduate degree. However, in some cases they may actually satisfy an undergraduate requirement. Additionally, these credits will apply to appropriate graduate level degree programs at Suffolk thus accelerating your graduate studies, students ultimately interested in fast track will apply their junior spring or senior fall.

Similarly Suffolk four plus one program recognizes the accomplishments of top undergraduate business students by creating a more streamlined pathway to an accelerated graduate business degree, with the four plus one program, you will not take graduate courses as an undergraduate student as you would with the fast track program but you will be eligible to waive the prerequisite or preparation courses for your program and may also be eligible to waive the GMAT and GRE if that's required as part of the program. Ultimately this will help shorten the length of your program and time to degree.

That brings me to our college of arts and sciences. I'm going to talk about our accelerated bachelor's and master's degree program. Our accelerated program in our college of arts and sciences offers a similar streamlined path to the fast track and four plus one that I discussed previously offered with some of our most popular undergraduate majors. This program is designed to provide an accelerated pathway.
to a master's degree.
Upon completion of your graduate studies you will earn both a dual degree in both a bachelor's and master's. In addition to saving on tuition you will benefit from the experience of a smooth transition from undergraduate to graduate study within the familiar environment of Suffolk.
In your junior year you may apply to an accelerated dual degree program. If admitted, you'll be able to take one graduate course in each of your last two undergraduate semesters, providing a little jumpstart into your graduate degree program.
So that brings me to financing your education. Top students will be automatically considered for merit based fellowship awards, no separate application is required for those to be considered. And all Suffolk alumni will automatically be eligible for the alumni scholarship. So if you move from undergraduate to graduate, that is something you will automatically qualify for.
Qualified students may also apply for additional federal and private loans. If that is something that you are interested in we could always connect you with financial services and they can certainly assist you with that process as well.
This degree is a great fit for those who already know they want to attend law school or almost certain, it's unique because you can save a year of undergrad tuition and a year of time of course.
In order to apply for this degree students must meet with me as early as their freshmen year to declare their intentions. The reason for that is so that I may code you and follow your progress and advise you at key points. You'd be applying to this program in your junior year, you would declare your intention in your freshmen year and for transfer students in the room.
Yes, you can apply to this program and then we could talk about that if you'd like. In order to prepare your application you'll need to plan carefully and choose your courses very methodically.
You'll be focusing only on your core or sometimes called general ed in major courses.
leaving your electives on the shelf so to speak. If you're accepted to this degree program in your junior year, you would end your undergrad experience at the end of your junior year at approximately 96 of the 126 credits required for an undergraduate degree. You would thus be entering law school and what would have been your undergrad senior year. Using your first year of law school, towards your electives and towards your first year of law school you can see that these courses would do double duty. So two degrees, one year of courses counting towards both degrees. You'd also be taking your LSAT no later than January of your junior year, earning a score that is equal to a greater than the median score of the law schools entering class for the previous year which really means you need to exceed the average score from the LSAT of the last year.

Next slide, please.

Here's what your degree will look like. I find it easier to look at the picture. You can see that your undergrad degree would be divided into three for a BA, BS. If you're working on a BFA, it would be 124. You would take an average of 16 to 17 credits per term but you can see you would be only focusing on your major or your core, not your electives. Now that's a big piece of the pie, your electives and that's intentional, that's so you have lots of choice. You might choose to double major. You might add a couple of minors. You might study abroad once, twice, you might go to the Washington center, but that piece of electives that third of the pie is very useful for this degree because it allows us to double count your first year of law school.

Next slide, please.

Here are some of our majors that fit quite nicely in this methodical scheduling. That doesn't mean that you couldn't take another major but these are an easy fit. For majors like the STEM majors we would have to do a little sort of planning, so to speak.

Next slide please.

So just to recap, you need a 3.5 GPA to apply to this program. You would need a score that is the average or higher of the last year's class. You would obtain confirmation from me in January saying you're on track. I would write to the law school. You would obtain confirmation from me when you're done.
13:16 with your last semester of your junior year.
13:21 I know that this sounds like it's very strict,
13:26 but don't worry.
13:27 You're not locked in.
13:29 If you change your mind, if you start down this path
13:33 and you change your mind, is okay.
13:35 There are no negative consequences, no penalty.
13:38 You would just simply finish your undergrad degree.
13:42 So this is a win-win if you're interested in law school.
13:47 Thank you.
13:48 I'll be available for questions later.
13:55 - Awesome.
13:56 So I think with that we can open it up
13:58 to our guest speakers.
14:01 First we'll start off with Kayla Durkee.
14:04 As I mentioned, Kayla is a Double Ram and MS and accounting
14:08 with the four plus one program.
14:10 So we'll just let Kayla talk about
14:12 her experience a little bit.
14:15 - Thank you.
14:16 Hi everyone.
14:17 My name is Kayla.
14:18 As she mentioned, I'm a Double Ram.
14:20 I went to Suffolk for undergrad and then one year
14:23 of grad school in the four plus one program.
14:25 When I had decided to go to Suffolk,
14:27 I knew about the four plus one program,
14:29 but I wasn't fully set on it yet.
14:32 But then going through my years at Suffolk
14:35 I did a study abroad in my undergrad,
14:37 and then in my junior year
14:39 I think applied to the four plus one program.
14:42 So I kind of committed to doing that extra year
14:45 of grad school to me in the accounting field,
14:49 part of the requirement to become CPA.
14:51 So certified public accountant
14:53 is that you have to have a certain number
14:56 of credit hours for schooling.
14:57 So it kind of fit right in for me
14:59 with the fact that I had to have a 150 credit hours
15:02 and then take my exams.
15:04 So I kind of structured my path around that
15:07 and finished my undergrad in the four years.
15:10 And then I did an internship in the field
15:13 which was a really cool experience before kind of
15:15 starting to get it like fully into the working world.
15:19 I was able to get that internship experience
15:21 and then come back for my last year of grad school
15:23 and use that time to get those last credits
15:25 and then study for my CPA exams
15:27 before going full force into the working world.
15:30 So I thought that it was really good
15:32 and kind of specific experience for me
15:34 to be able to do my studying.
and all of that before I actually started working
and I was able to get that certification done beforehand.
So definitely good for at least I can speak
to the business side of things,
the business school side of things.
Definitely a good experience for that.
One other thing that Katie mentioned
was the fellowship opportunities.
I did do a fellowship
when I was in my grad school program too.
So I was kind of able to work through the school
as well at that time and kind of finish a year of school
and get a little bit of work done and pay towards my tuition
and then do my studying at the same time.
So I thought overall it was a really smooth transition
in a kind of, I was already comfortable with the school,
comfortable with some of the professors that I saw
in undergrad and then again, in the grad program.
So it really kind of built up those relationships for me
and I had a really good experience with the four-plus one.
- Thanks, Kayla.
- [Kayla] Thank you.
- All right, with that, we are gonna pass it to Humza.
- Good evening, everybody.

So my name is Hamza.
I'm a current student.
I graduate in the spring, so this semester,
just got a couple more months left.
Basically, the way I got into this program
was that heading into my senior year actually
we had advising sessions.
And I learned about this program
and at that point I was undecided what I wanted to do
after my senior year, whether I wanted to go to law school,
whether I wanted to get a paralegal certificate
or whether I wanted to go to grad school.
When I learned about this program
I thought this was the best fit for me
because not only was it something
that added onto my existing undergraduate degree
which I did in law and public policy,
but also because it save time, saving that extra year
and it was also saving me money.
And one of the reasons I'm glad that I made this decision
is because through this program
obviously I've gained in terms of education
but I've also gained in terms of experience
and what I can put on my resume.
A lot of the professors are very helpful.
And a lot of the stuff that you do amongst your coursework
18:07 is real life experience that you can put on your resume.
18:10 For example, for one of the classes that this program offers
18:17 we are working as a poster,
18:21 you get experience in reading polls, making polls,
18:28 you get experience in calling people
18:32 and then on top of that,
18:33 you can put all that in your resume.
18:35 One of the Suffolk University political research center
18:38 had a poll recently that they'd published and the student
18:42 and that specific class were given a chance
18:45 to submit their own questions for that poll.
18:47 And if they were accepted
18:49 that's something that you can put on your resume
18:50 that you participated in the creation of a national poll.
18:55 Additionally, like I said, the professors are very helpful.
19:00 I've had a couple of internship opportunities,
19:03 I interned at the state house over this last year
19:07 because of COVID for one of your requirements
19:09 you do have to do an internship,
19:12 because of COVID I wasn't able to get one outside
19:15 but the professors were helpful
19:16 and there's a lot of in-house internship available as well.
19:21 I was able to work on recruiting people
19:23 as election day workers from the school
19:26 which was a great experience learning about
19:27 how the election day processes work.
19:30 So these are all things that you can apply
19:31 to the real world.
19:32 And so it's not just,
19:34 so there's a lot of ways that you can benefit from this.
19:38 So I would highly encourage everyone
19:40 to at least look into it
19:41 and considering that you're all here right now
19:44 you've already taken that first step.
19:46 So yeah, just do your due diligence and just,
19:51 there's a lot of options available to you.
19:53 So just see what fits you best and go from there.
19:56 Thank you.
19:57 - Thanks Humza.
20:03 - All right, so thank you to Dean Lenzie
20:06 and Katie and our two awesome guest speakers
20:08 for joining us this evening.
20:10 Now we're gonna open up for questions.
20:11 So I know that was plenty information, lots to think about,
20:14 but we are happy to kind of help you
20:17 start to digesting that.
20:18 So as we said earlier, you can use the Q&A function
20:21 or the chat button on the bottom of your page.
20:23 I saw we already had one question come in
20:25 and Dean Lenzie tackle that one, so thank you for that.
20:27 But anyone else, anything you're thinking about
20:29 feel free to put it in the chat.
20:31 I'm gonna add a message in the chat as well.
20:33 This is just something to keep in mind with next steps.
We have plenty of more admitted student events coming up. It's awesome to see again, that you turned out tonight, check out this one, but definitely browse our website. We have an admitted group for students as well. So if you wanna start to get to know the community that you could be a part of next year definitely join that as well. But anyway, like I said, any questions about the content of tonight presentation, feel free to throw it in the chat. And we're happy to answer. That being said too, if you want to hear more about either of our guest speakers experiences I know you're both wonderful in sharing quite a bit about what you've done but they're here as well to help with that. Okay, so it looks like we did have one Q&A question pop in. So it looks like the students sounds like they're not so certain yet if which sort of program is for them, how late could you join the program? Is there kind of a cutoff point? So if you're interested in either of the accelerated programs, that's something that ultimately you'd wanna discuss with your advisor. Really your junior spring would be probably the latest you'd want to get that going. So you certainly have time to think about it. If it's something that's on your radar I would suggest putting that out to your advisor when you start your undergraduate degree and then typically our deadlines for those are junior spring or senior fall. - Thanks Katie. So it looks like we had a question coming to Q&A for Dean Lenzie. I think this one may have been addressed in the chat but it may be worth answering for the whole group. Our electives that are saved to count for your senior year and first year of law school limited to law topics, or can the elective still be unrelated topics that I may be interested in? - Yeah, so the short answer to that is yes. Thank you Olivia. They're related strictly to law because they are your first year of law classes. Normally as an undergrad, a third of your degree would be electives but you're not going to take them as an undergrad 'cause you're finishing your undergrad in the junior year. So you're going to move into law school in your senior year and use that first year of law school which are prescribed law classes, account for both
23:00 your undergrad elective and law school first year.
23:05 I hope that's clearer.
23:09 - Definitely, thank you.
23:11 So we had another question come in.
23:12 How do you go about applying for the accelerated programs?
23:18 - Good question.
23:20 So that you would complete like a formal application for,
23:25 if that's something that you're interested in.
23:27 I would, again, suggest
23:28 that you connect with your academic advisor
23:30 and they can certainly walk you through that process.
23:33 There's specific criteria and things that you need to meet.
23:37 So they'll review if you meet those criteria
23:39 and let you know if that's something
23:40 that you're eligible for and you can go from there.
23:45 - So it looks like we have another question connecting to
23:47 the application process, which is better,
23:50 applying for this program in your freshman year
23:53 or later on in your academic journey?
23:58 I think whoever wants to, whichever program.
24:02 - Okay, I know for most of our programs
24:06 you're gonna want to look towards the end
24:08 of your undergraduate degree.
24:11 It might be different for the bachelor's law program
24:14 but I'll let Dean Lenzie speak to that.
24:19 - Yeah, for the bachelor law degrees
24:22 you would declare your intention as early
24:25 as your freshman year 'cause you have to begin planning,
24:29 it's just so tight to get everything done
24:35 except your electives.
24:37 And then in your junior year
24:39 you would apply to the law school.
24:45 - Great, thank you.
24:47 So we had a question come in about dual enrollment classes.
24:50 This is a great question.
24:51 So the students asking how does taking
24:53 dual enrollment classes in high school affect credits
24:55 in the four plus one?
24:56 Speaking on behalf of the undergraduate mission process,
24:59 dual enrollment classes, something that you deal with
25:01 when you're first coming in.
25:02 So this is something that when you commit to Suffolk
25:05 we have people in our office who work with you
25:07 to figure out what those credits could cover
25:09 in your undergraduate degree.
25:11 So that typically is how
25:12 that is taken care of in your process.
25:15 - I can just echo that.
25:16 I did have those kinds of credits when I was coming in.
25:19 And it was just a really easy process
25:21 when you're first starting at Suffolk
25:22 it's just worked with the admissions person.
25:27 - Great, okay.
25:28 So it looks like
25:29 that may be all of our questions this evening.
25:32 That being said again, thank you tuning in tonight.
25:36 If you have any questions that come up in the future
25:37 our office is always here to support you.
25:40 If you have any questions about accelerated programs
25:42 you're welcome to connect with
25:43 either of our speakers tonight
25:45 or even just send the question to our the admissions office
25:47 and we're happy to connect you as well
25:48 to any anyone you might wanna discuss with on campus.
25:51 So with that again, thank you, Dean Lenzie.
25:53 Thank you, Katie.
25:54 Thank you our speakers
25:56 and hope you all have a great rest of your evening.