Good afternoon and thank you for joining us for Suffolk University's spotlight on graduate admissions, Grad School 101.

It is my pleasure to welcome you from our beautiful downtown campus, where I am joining you.

Before we get started, I just wanted to mention this session is being recorded.

And for attendees we will have the opportunity to send you a recording of today's session.
So sit back, relax, and enjoy the presentation.

You also have the opportunity to chat in your questions in the chat bar on your screen.

So at any point, please feel free to do that.

I will also reserve some time at the end for questions that you might have.

So let's get started.

My name is Heather O'Leary.

I am the director of graduate admission here at Suffolk University.
And I have been working in higher education for nearly 20 years.

I know, it’s hard to believe.

But during my time, I've had the opportunity to work at institutions such as the University of California Davis, Northeastern University, I've done higher education consulting for clients such as Purdue, MIT, University of Miami, and across the board, there have been some consistent themes related to graduate admissions and the work
that admissions committees do that really forms the foundation of the tips on insider tricks that I'm going to share with you today.

I've also earned my own MBA while working full-time.

And starting and raising my family.

So for a lot of individuals I have been in your shoes, I know what it's like to try and explore these various options, and try to assess whether or not you can make this work
with your already pretty busy lives.

So again, I'm going to share my perspective and experience in these areas and hopefully you will walk away with some tips on how to put together really strong applications.

So here's our agenda for today.

First, I want to talk about why you should even consider graduate school.
What are the benefits associated with that?

I want to share with you an overview of Suffolk University's graduate programs.

And then as I mentioned, really help you stand out within the application process.

I've had the benefit of advising and working with hundreds of applicants during my career and reviewed literally thousands of applications.

So, let's take some of the lessons that I learned from working with individuals
on what not to do and what also really helped those candidates stand out.

So, why should you consider graduate school?

So as part of my work as a consultant, I had the opportunity to actually research what are some of the ways that individuals, or what are some of the reasons behind why individuals choose to pursue graduate school.

So if you were in the room with me, I'd be asking you, but since we're doing this virtually, let
me just share some of the highlights related

to why a lot of people choose to pursue graduate school options.

First, graduate school is an investment in yourself.

I'm sure you have heard about the benefits, both in terms of employability and salary related

to attaining a bachelors degree and what that does for individuals.

Pursuing a masters degree can actually increase your long-term earning potential
and make you even more competitive, more recession-proof,

than a bachelors degree alone would.

You don't have to take my word for it.

This is data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

it is the most recent aggregate data that is available.

And as you can see here, the difference between various degrees of educational attainment related to bachelors
degree holders, associate degree holders,

but also masters and professional degrees.

There is data to show that for those who have masters and professional degrees, on average,

they earn 35,000 dollars more per year than those with a bachelors degree alone.

And that is an average.

So for some degrees and for some disciplines, the earnings difference can be even greater.

I think what's also important about this data point is to demonstrate the unemployment rate
for those with higher levels of educational attainment.

So when I pursued my graduate degree, I finished it, it was actually 2008.

And a lot of you may remember what was happening.

It was the height of the financial crisis.

We were dealing with the housing bubble that had just burst.

I was actually living and working in California at the time.
And at that point, our unemployment rate in California was over 12.5%.

It was a really scary time and I had just invested all of this time and energy and money into pursuing my own graduate degree.

So, what were some of the outcomes related to that?

In addition, I was also working with a number of other individuals who were also just about to consider pursuing graduate degrees.
Or a graduate education.

So I did a little research.

I dug into the data.

And while the average unemployment rate at that time was 12.5%, what we found when I looked into the data, was that bachelors degree holders had about a 7% unemployment rate.

Still not as exciting as what we would want or what we would hope but certainly better outcomes
than those without a bachelor's degree.

But the story became even more compelling when I looked into data related to graduate masters degree holders.

Those individuals in 2008 had a 3.5% unemployment rate in California.

And as they like to say, where California goes, so goes the rest of the country.

What was happening in California was certainly a precursor of what was going to trickle across the US economy and
then the global economy.

So that being said, 3.5% is a fairly healthy employment rate.

And while we are experiencing record unemployment or record employment rates right now and very low unemployment rates,

that is not always going to be the case.

For a lot of us, we know that economies are cyclical, employment is cyclical.

So, by investing in yourself, not only
are you increasing your earning potential,

but you are also increasing your employability.

And it makes sense, when there's an economic downturn or companies are struggling,

it is not the individuals who are bringing the most value to the table that companies are laying off.

It's those individuals who are going to help the companies navigate, whether it be recessions or economic downturns, in order to come out stronger on the other side.
In addition to your employability, for a lot of individuals, pursuing a masters degree helps you get noticed.

And for some degrees, or for some industries or positions, it is the bare minimum required for you to even be considered for certain types of positions.

So, it's a really great opportunity for you to help yourself stand out from the crowd.

Another important factor, and some which people don't always necessarily consider,
is really about how it expands your network.

Now, not only are you going to be working more with faculty and getting to learn from them,

but you're going to be connected with a group of fellow students who are also connected to their industries, have variety of backgrounds coming into the programs,

and that expanded network really will help you navigate your professional career.

LinkedIn did some research back in 2018 that showed that 85%
of jobs are filled via networking.

What better way to expand your network than to be working and studying with a cohort of students or with a classroom full of students who are also tied into the companies and the organizations that are of interest to you?

As a matter of fact, additional research that LinkedIn did showed that 70 to 80% of jobs are filled before they're even posted on job boards.
So the companies and organizations have the person in mind before the position is even posted by human resources.

How do you find out about these positions?

By having a strong, connected network.

And Suffolk University can help bring you that with our collaborative classes, the ability to connect really well with our alumni,
your fellow classmates, and
of course your faculty.

Now for some, pursuing a graduate
degree has been a longstanding goal.

So I was a psychology undergraduate.

That's what I earned my bachelors degree in.

So if any of you have taken a psychology class,

you will recognize this graphic
as Maslow's hierarchy of needs.
Maslow believed that those basic needs need to be achieved before you can achieve your self actualization,
or achieving your highest potential.

Pursuing a graduate degree for a number of individuals is that long-standing goal that helps them achieve their greatest potential.

And it allows you to gain insight, knowledge, and expertise in a way that you can't just get from reading a book or watching
videos on YouTube.

Not that those aren't valuable tools as well to supplement, but there's something about the immersive experience about studying a particular discipline with faculty and with your fellow classmates that really help you, again, achieve mastery of that information.

So, how can Suffolk help you get there?

As I mentioned, we are located in our beautiful downtown Boston campus.

And that allows us to be uniquely
positioned to help you succeed.

We have more than 50 graduate certificate masters in dual degree programs

designed not only to meet your needs, but also to build on your experience already

and help you gain additional experience along the way.

So what makes up the Suffolk experience?

There are really three pillars that are foundational to how our faculty have designed the courses
as well as the programs that we offer.

One is it's really grounded in experiential learning.

We believe that it's incredibly important for you to learn by doing.

So all of our programs include practicums, working with companies and organizations, having that real-world experience, whether that be problems or issues that these organizations are facing that you are then applying what you learned in the classroom
to help them solve those challenges.

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The second is being self-aware.

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So having the opportunity to really know what your strengths are and where your opportunities for growth are.

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So a wide variety of support services, whether that be through professional and career development, outside opportunities, outside of the classroom opportunities.

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for networking, hearing from speakers, people who are working in these various careers,
and being connected with the industries that make Boston thrive.

Finally, the third pillar is understanding.

So providing faculty that are seasoned, that are professional, that have their hand not only in academia, but also are working outside of their academic roles as practitioners to help bring that expertise into the classroom. But also are bringing that to a place where you can learn and grow and absorb that material.
So that Suffolk experience is learning by doing, working with real companies, businesses, and professionals, small class sizes that help foster that learning, personal attention and mentoring, connections to the Boston business and organizational community, and then our seasoned and professional faculty that really make up that Suffolk experience.

So let’s talk about that faculty.

Our faculty are made up of both practitioners and academics.
As a matter of fact, over 90% have terminal degrees or PhDs.

So why is that important?

Their experience, their expertise, really allows faculty to tailor their classes in a real way related to what industries are looking for, how they can be responsive to the needs of the business and organizational communities that we partner with, but also to adapt in real time based on what you
and your classmates need to be successful and to succeed.

So they aren't just teaching out of books, they're not just teaching from content that other people have created. But by having that expertise, they're bringing that into the classroom and being able to adapt in a way that really makes it a very exciting and dynamic classroom experience.

I've also mentioned our downtown Boston location, but Boston is such a vibrant area.
It is called the hub for a lot of great reasons, not the least of which is the center of access and opportunity to industries such as innovation and technology, finance, media, government, financial services, transportation, biotech, healthcare.

All of these are really instrumental to Boston in its economic engines.

Our location in the heart of it all allows us to take advantage of it in a way that other universities can't necessarily leverage.
It's really exciting to be able to see our students step right across from the state house to take advantage of maybe internship and opportunities where blocks away from the financial district, we're just a couple of T stops away from the Longwood Medical Center area. So whether you're talking about healthcare, government, finance, business, marketing, communication, we're at the heart of all of it.
And it's great to see our students take advantage of that.

So let's talk about some of the programs that are available to our students.

First, let me talk about graduate certificates and how graduate certificates may help you depending on where you are in your career.

Certificates really are designed for a couple of different types of students.

First and foremost, career changers.
So for some of you, you may have fallen into your job.

Maybe, like me, your discipline was not necessarily related to the work that you are currently doing.

The certificate allows you to make that transition, make that shift to be able to enhance your knowledge in a specific area.

The other group of individuals who really gravitate towards our graduate certificates are those career enhancers.
So these are people who want to continue to learn and grow, be up on the cutting edge in terms of what their discipline is, maybe they already study the accounting or the finance or the psychology, but they want to continue to enhance their skills.

And then finally, it's those career assessors.

They know graduate school is probably in their future, but they're not necessarily sure whether or not they want to commit to a full degree.
Our graduate certificates really provide our students with the opportunity to test out the degree.

And for most of our certificate programs, after you've completed the certificate, those courses could actually transfer into the corresponding full degree program, so you're not losing ground if you decide that you do really want to continue and pursue that full masters degree.
These are all great ways to add to your resume and again, help you stand out in a competitive business environment.

So next up I want to talk a little bit about the difference between some of our types of programs.

So for many people, we get the question related to the MBA versus a specialized masters degree.

And in a moment I'm going to highlight some of the specialized masters degrees that we offer.
But I wanted to mention the difference between the two.

First of all, the MBA really provides a foundation that would be applicable across a broad range of industries and functional areas.

So you are going to get those fundamentals in finance, in accounting, in organizational behavior, in marketing, really understanding how businesses work.

MBAs typically, and Suffolk is no exception, typically require work experience.
But it's a great fit for candidates who are looking to move up into management roles or to pivot and change careers.

So the MBA can really provide that stepping stone to help you take advantage of those opportunities.

Now masters degrees, those are courses and programs that is isolated to a specific topic.

For most of our programs, these masters degrees,
these specialized masters, don't require work experience.

And they are a great fit for candidates who are looking to become a specialist within a certain discipline.

So let me showcase some of the degree programs that Suffolk offers.

As you can see, we have a wide variety of degrees across our college of arts and sciences and the Sawyer Business School that really highlight disciplines in business, healthcare,
media and communications, government non-profits, as well as art and design.

In addition, we have degree programs where you can get a dual degree.

So these options provide you the opportunity to focus or specialize in more than one area, taking less time than if you were to do these degrees separately.

So, it's a great opportunity for you to check out, see some of these various options,
than happy to discuss with you some

of the specifics related
to each of these programs.

But next up, rather than
getting into the details

because we could probably spend several
hours talking about the intricacies of each

of these programs, let me talk to you
more broadly about talking to Suffolk.

So, at Suffolk University, we approach
the application process in a couple
of different ways depending on the program that you were interested in.

For most of our masters degree programs, we have what we call rolling admission with priority application deadlines associated with the start track.

What rolling admission means is rather than waiting for a specific deadline to evaluate all applications at once, we are reviewing your application as it becomes complete and generally providing you with an admissions decision within two
to three weeks of your application becoming complete and the reviews starting in our office.

For a handful of programs, we have what is called round-based deadlines.

So that falls in line with our PhD programs, our medical dosimetry program, and our mental health counseling program.

These programs actually do wait for the specific rounds for people to be evaluated.

And in general, we follow up within a specific deadline, anywhere from 6 to 8 weeks,
after that round deadline has hit.

The reason why these specific programs at Suffolk have these round-based deadlines is because of the nature of the program and the practicums, or the way the programs are designed.

We are more space limited with these programs.

And so we want to be able to provide all of our applicants an opportunity to be evaluated and not have the class fill
even before the deadline hits.

Now let's talk about the application and the various components related to the application.

Why do we have an application to begin with?

Well we want to make sure that you are academically prepared, that you're going to be able to do well in the program, we evaluate that based on the work that you've done prior, whether that be your undergraduate or graduate or certificate course work that
you've taken up to this point.

I'm also going to talk about standardized test scores and how that fits in at Suffolk University. And for some of our programs, supporting documentation, such as portfolios for our art and design programs. The other factors that we look at include your goals. Are we aligned as an institution with
what you are interested in pursuing

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and what those longer term goals are?

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So it's not just a matter of knowing whether
or not you can be successful in the program,

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but are we the right fit for you as well?

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So we assess that through the
essay, that statement of purpose,

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where you tell us what it is that you want to do
and why you want to do it at Suffolk University.

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As well as what your recommenders tell us
about you, how well you might be aligned
with success in a particular discipline.

And then finally, we want to assess your communication skills.

Regardless of the industry or the role that you are in, having strong written and verbal communication skills is essential to be successful.

So again, that essay is performing double duty, providing us the opportunity to assess your written communication skills.
And then interviews are an important part of the process for us.

We will always grant interviews for applicants who are interested.

Some programs require interviews as a part of their process.

Whereas other programs may not require it, but will invite candidates in for interviews whether or not they have requested it.

So, let's talk about standardized tests.
So good news for a lot of people, standardized tests make some people cringe when you think back to maybe taking the SAT or ACT or other, you know, sort of standardized tests that you were applying college. At Suffolk University, we recognize that you are more than just a score on a given day for an exam that you have taken. So for a number of our programs, the GRE or GMAT is not required.
For other programs, it is either required or a test waiver is possible.

So for example our PhD programs, the GRE is required.

Our MS in finance, the GMAT or the GRE is an option, although waivers are available for candidates who meet certain academic criteria or work experience criteria.

And our MS in mental health counseling does require the GRE.

And all of the dual degrees with the law school will require either the LSAT or the GRE.
But for the vast majority, if you remember the couple slides ago, that list of programs that I showed you?

That list of programs, the majority of them do not require the GMAT or the GRE.

Now that being said, for those candidates who have taken the test or feel like the test is an accurate representation of their ability, or maybe want to be able to demonstrate to the admissions committee
that they have strength in an area.

So I've worked with a number of students who maybe had a weaker undergraduate record.

Maybe they had a slow start or maybe they were in the wrong major at first and their GPA isn't necessarily reflective of what they feel their ability is.

For others, it is maybe they were working in one discipline that was less quantitative and they are applying for a more quantitative type of degree.
They want to be able to demonstrate their quantitative skills.

Because they don’t have a lot of coursework necessarily in that background.

The GMAT or the GRE is a great tool to be able to demonstrate that aptitude, maybe make up for a weaker undergraduate record.

Or a record that’s lacking in a particular area.

So, we will always accept your GMAT and GRE scores.
We welcome your submission of those scores.

And for those candidates who are interested, there are a lot of resources out there on how to prepare for the GMAT and the GRE that are free to you where you can get some great tips and tricks on how to prepare yourself for those exams.

So next up I want to talk about the essay.

As I mentioned, the essay, the goal statement, the personal statement, whatever you call it,
that's a really important tool
for us to get to know you,

especially if we haven't had the opportunity
to meet you at one of our recruiting events

or an opportunity for you to come into the office and talk with an admissions counselor.

So the essay if your opportunity to tell us why you are interested in this particular program

and why you think the program at Suffolk University is a good fit for you.

I like to say that really strong essays have three Cs.
First is they are clear, second they are concise, and third, they are consistent with the rest of their application.

So what do I mean by that?

In terms of being clear, what you should aim to strive for is conveying to us that compelling story as to why you want this particular program and why you want it at Suffolk University.
In general, students who stick to those themes and can really answer that question tend to make a compelling case, as opposed to trying to fit their entire life story or their entire educational background into that goal statement.

So what do I mean about being concise, the second C?

Well, as I mentioned before, having really strong communication skills, written communication skills is important to us.
One of the ways that you can convey those communication skills is by being concise in your writing.

We don't need to have a 10 page dissertation or a 20 page dissertation as to your background and why you want this particular degree.

So I have also found that students can do really well within 250 to 500 words at most in terms of conveying what it is that they are looking for.

And why Suffolk is a good fit for them.
Now, third C, consistent.

What do I mean about being consistent?

Well, it's really important to understand what your story is, to have done the research, to have done that self reflection as to why you want to pursue a particular degree, and to convey that information to us.

And have that be consistent throughout your application.
So, when you are being consistent, that means doing things such as preparing your recommenders as to why you want to pursue a degree and hopefully having them fill in some of that context into their letters of recommendation.

It's about telling a story that is consistent with why you say you want to pursue the degree. And having that story in mind so that if you do meet with us or do interview as part of your process, that you're conveying those themes to us.
It makes a really clear case when you are consistent throughout your application.

So I mentioned letters of recommendation. And I want to dive into that just a little bit more.

So, first question is who do you ask? And some candidates will say well, I should, you know, talk to former professors.

Others say well I should try to get them from managers or supervisors,
people in a more professional setting.

And what I like to say to that--

people who answer that question either of those ways is they could be both right,

but they could also be both wrong.

And what I mean by that is it really depends on the program that you are applying to.

So first and foremost, I strongly encourage you to connect with Suffolk University and the Office of Graduate Admission
to have a conservation about what it is

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that your specific program, what that admissions committee is looking for.

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There are some programs in our portfolio

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where they strictly want academic letters of recommendation.

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And for those who don't provide academic letters of recommendation, they're at a disadvantage.

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Other programs strictly want professional letters of recommendation.

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And having a letter from a
manager or a supervisor or someone

who has been a team lead on
a project that you worked on.

Those are going to be much more
compelling than academic letters

that occurred maybe a few years before.

For some programs, they don't care.

They're happy to have a combination of
both or all of one or all of the other.

So again, getting to know what
it is that the program is looking
for really helps you set
yourself up for success.

The other point that I want
to make about letters

d of recommendation is how you
can prepare your recommenders.

As I said, giving your recommenders
the opportunity to understand why it is

that you want to pursue this degree and what
you think you're going to get out of it.

And for some candidates it has really
led to some really great opportunities

When their manager found out that they were interested in pursuing graduate education.

It meant all of a sudden they were getting to work on interesting projects or things

that really helped them to develop professionally.

So how do you prepare your recommender?

Well, do things such as polish up your resume, think about some of the things,
maybe have your goal statement or your essay outline or even draft it.

Take your recommender out for either coffee or lunch.

Buy the coffee or the lunch.

And sit down with them and talk to them about your professional goals and how you think graduate school will prepare you for that.

It's also a great precursor for that interview.
Sort of a warm up informational interview where you're sharing these highlights with your recommender.

You will find that it will give them the opportunity to really craft a letter of recommendation that provides much more depth and insight than if you just ask them to write a letter but don't provide any guidance.

So, we've also mentioned interviews.
I won't spend a whole lot of time on talking about how to prepare for interviews because there's so many resources out there with a lot of career development professionals that can do a much better job than I can do in the time that we have allocated.

But that being said, you should take the approach of the interview for graduate school the same way you would a job interview.

So that means coming dressed to impress, so just as you would come in prepared.
if you were interviewing for a position, the difference is you are applying for the position of being a graduate student, not necessarily for a job at Suffolk University.

You should also come in prepared to talk about your accomplishments, your highlights, what you think you would bring to the program.

Just as you would with a job interview where you would want to go more in-depth in what your resume or your cover letter would say related to why you think you're a good fit.
for that position, it's the same type of approach when you're approaching your admissions interview.

And finally, follow-up with a thank you.

Email thank yous are fine, certainly card thank yous are becoming more and more rare in today's society.

But you know, do that follow-up.
Continue to show your professionalism, and take a few minutes to highlight and make that last case as to why you think you are a good fit.

It really can go a long way in terms of helping you stand out in a crowd.

So, we've talked about the application process, we've talked about the various programs and opportunities that Suffolk University has.

And we also talked about how graduate education is an investment.
Well, it's an investment that we also strongly believe in and support.

So in terms of financing your education, there are a number of different routes that you can take.

First and foremost, whether you are a part-time student or a full-time student, Suffolk University has made the commitment to invest in our students in terms of scholarships.

So we spend millions of dollars a year actually investing in our students.
through our merit-based scholarship program.

There is not a separate application for those scholarships, those scholarships are included as or you're evaluated for those scholarships as part of your application for admission.

And if you qualify for merit based scholarships, you are notified at the time of admission what that scholarship looks like.

There's also graduate loan funding available to students.

So we have staff members in graduate financial
aid who work strictly with our graduate students

and are more than happy to talk to you about the various options that are available to you.

For US residents and permanent residents and US citizens, I would encourage you to also submit the free application for federal student aid. It's definitely a more streamlined application than it was even a number of years ago. But that provides you with access to some federal loan programs as well.
as other opportunities that aren't available to you if you don't complete that.

And you don't need to wait for your admission decision to complete that free application for federal student aid.

So, if you are considering, for example, applying for fall of 2020 admission for this coming September, I would encourage you to complete that FAFSA as soon as possible, even if you haven't started your application yet.
And finally, there are other opportunities.

I know today we are talking to members of our partner scholarship program.

These companies and organizations that have committed to support their employees and members through partnering with Suffolk University.

So for employees or members of our PSP organizations, those get a 10% discount if they don't qualify for other merit aid.

So at minimum, you would receive a 10% discount off of tuition.
For our executive MBA program, it's actually a $10,000 dollars scholarship versus the 10% discount.

So if you qualify for merit aid that is greater than 10% discount, we will always give you the higher amounts.

But for those PSP members and employees, you will have the opportunity to qualify for that.

We also have alumni scholarships.
So for Suffolk undergraduates who completed their degree at Suffolk, again,

who did not qualify for other merit aid, you're automatically considered for scholarships related to enrolling in graduate programs here at Suffolk University.

So, at this point in time, I would like to encourage any questions that you might have so feel free to chat them in.

And I also wanted to share our contact information.
As I mentioned, we have a number of ways for you to connect with the Office of Graduate Admission, so I would encourage you to call our office, email us with questions, but even more importantly, sit down with your graduate admissions counselor. So we have a team of graduate admissions staff who are assigned to a portfolio of programs. So they really are going to be experts in helping you navigate the admissions process for the specific program that you are interested in.
We also have a number of opportunities for you to connect with faculty, with students, with alumni, and I would encourage you to participate in those as well.

So in March, we will have our graduate open house.

Which will be a half day event on a Saturday.

Which allows you to network with other individuals and also have the opportunity to meet with financial aid, with the programs, hear different presentations and so forth,
to really get a feel for what it's like to be a graduate student here at Suffolk University.

So, please check out our website or look in your email for invitations to those events as well.

So I did get a question that got chatted in.

Someone has asked can I speak to the difference in the classroom experience from undergraduate to grad school?

So, that's a great question.
In terms of at least my experience and in talking to other graduate students, very often your undergraduate experience is you are in a classroom, even if there's some experiential learning, it's very much the faculty member tends to be designing the classroom or the classroom experience around lecturing, about imparting knowledge to you. You are also having the opportunity to explore a lot of options, but there's a lot of time
for you to have to take, you know, core curriculum or classes and so forth.

Graduate school is very different.

There is a give and take between you in the class, your classmates, and the faculty.

And what's really exciting about being in a graduate program is that you are learning from your classmates, from that extended network, as much as you are from the faculty.

Because students tend to be coming in with a wide variety of experiences,
either straight form undergrad, all the way up to multiple years or even, you know, 10, 15 years of professional experience, that perspective is bought into the classroom and allows you to learn about things through a different lens.

Graduate school is also very specialized. So you are really just focusing on the content at hand to become that specialist,
from a general education perspective that's filling up your schedule.

So, another question that has come in is how much time can I expect to spend on homework outside of class?

Well this does vary from the time of the semester as well as your aptitude for certain material, but the general rule of thumb is you should expect to spend anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours outside of class for each hour that you are in class.
So for example, if you are a part-time student taking six hours, taking two classes,

which is six hours of classroom time, you should expect to spend anywhere from six

to 12 hours outside of class working on assignments, working on projects,

preparing for exams, and so forth.

So, depending on how many classes you would take, you would exponentially multiply that.

Next question, what is the minimum GPA required?
So, for a number of our programs, we actually don't have a minimum GPA. Some programs do like to see at least a 3.0. So again, some of it is dependent on the program and how competitive the program is. With that being said, as I mentioned before, if you do have a concern about your GPA and whether or not it is below a 3.0 or maybe is a little bit weaker, taking the GMAT or the GRE is a great way to demonstrate your academic aptitude,
which could then mitigate that lower GPA.

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So we take what's called a
holistic review of the application,

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which means we are evaluating you based
on the totality of your academic profile,

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your professional work experience, what
your recommenders say about your ability
to handle the coursework and contribute in a
professional setting, your communication skills.

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So that entire package is what
factors into our decision making.
So next up, I've gotten a question around the difference between the MBA program and the executive MBA program.

So thank you for asking that question.

So, in terms of the MBA program, both really do expect that students are going to be coming in with a certain level of work experience.

The difference between the profile of the executive MBA student is that they tend to have greater work experience coming into the
program than students in our MBA program do.

So on average, our MBA program, those students have, you know, three and a half to five years of work experience, depending on the given year.

Whereas our executive MBA students, they tend to have seven to nine years of work experience coming into the program.

They tend to be in a more senior level.

And for many of them, they are being supported or sponsored by their companies.
Another difference is the format of the program.

So our executive MBA program, because it is designed for those individuals with significantly more senior level work experience, it is a cohort based model.

Which is being taught in a compressed time frame on Saturdays for 16 months.

Whereas our MBA program is one in which students can choose to go full-time or part-time in as little as 16 months and can take upwards of three to three
and a half years if they're going part-time.

So, next question.

I love that all these questions are coming in, thank you.

So I heard there are travel opportunities, what do these look like?

So in terms of our travel opportunities, yes,

there's a wide variety of opportunities available.
For some programs, like our executive MBA and our MBA program,

the global travel seminar is actually built into the design of the curriculum.

So it's a required part where you are spending a week to 10 days actually immersed in a country, visiting different companies, working on business problems, presenting your findings back to them, moving to another company the next day.

So it's a pretty intensive timeframe that is led by faculty and provides you the opportunity
to get that more immersive experience.

Our travel seminars also, outside of the MBA and the executive MBA program,

within the business school, is a great opportunity for you to have that immersive experience, it's just not necessarily a required part.

We also have a lot of opportunities for students to get immersive experiences through a global network, whether that be through internships
or other practicum experiences that they are taking advantage of.

Okay. So last but not least, we have a question related to the best advice for putting together a strong application.

So, as I mentioned before, really being deliberative about your application, preparing as if you were applying for a job, getting to know the program, what's unique about Suffolk, how it aligns with your goals, putting all of that together
in an application that's consistent, that's clear, that's concise.

That really does help you stand out.

And I think the best way for you to be able to do that is to go beyond what the website can tell you.

So, as I mentioned, you have the opportunity to visit us. Whether that be to come to our office, to attend one of our events that we are hosting either on
campus or around the region.

I would encourage you to take advantage of that, to meet with and talk with as many different people as possible.

Talk to current students, talk to alumni, talk to faculty.

Get to know the program.

And the more you get to know the program, not only are you deciding if it's a good fit for you, but it also helps you determine what you can highlight about yourself.
and your background that's going to be a great fit for that program.

We always get very excited when we have someone that has, you know, really has given us some great perspective on the things that they want to take advantage of, whether it's that global travel seminar, whether it's working with a specific professor, whether it's the opportunity to take an idea that they have and to be able to leverage what Suffolk University can offer.
them to be able to bring that idea to life.

We get really excited when people go beyond just telling us what we've shared on the website about what Suffolk can offer them.

So, at this time, I understand there are no further questions.

So I want to again thank you for your time today, thank you for your participation.

I would again encourage you to contact us, visit our website, sign up for an upcoming event, and I look forward to meeting each and every
one of you at an upcoming recruiting event.

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So thank you!