

1

00:00:00,716 --> 00:00:05,676

>> Good afternoon and thank you for joining  
us for Suffolk University's spotlight

2

00:00:05,676 --> 00:00:08,616

on graduate admissions, Grad School 101.

3

00:00:09,076 --> 00:00:11,546

It is my pleasure to welcome you

4

00:00:11,546 --> 00:00:15,326

from our beautiful downtown  
campus, where I am joining you.

5

00:00:16,196 --> 00:00:20,476

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

6

00:00:21,236 --> 00:00:27,076

And for attendees we will have the opportunity  
to send you a recording of today's session.

7

00:00:27,826 --> 00:00:31,316

So sit back, relax, and enjoy the presentation.

8

00:00:31,666 --> 00:00:38,206

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

9

00:00:38,496 --> 00:00:40,986

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

10

00:00:40,986 --> 00:00:44,326

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

11

00:00:45,026 --> 00:00:47,216

So let's get started.

12

00:00:47,606 --> 00:00:48,806

My name is Heather O'Leary.

13

00:00:48,876 --> 00:00:53,106

I am the director of graduate admission here at Suffolk University.

14

00:00:53,376 --> 00:00:58,576

And I have been working in higher education for nearly 20 years.

15

00:00:58,576 --> 00:00:59,686

I know, it's hard to believe.

16

00:00:59,956 --> 00:01:06,176

But during my time, I've had the opportunity to work at institutions such as the University

17

00:01:06,176 --> 00:01:11,896

of California Davis, Northeastern University, I've done higher education consulting

18

00:01:11,896 --> 00:01:19,136

for clients such as Purdue, MIT, University of Miami, and across the board,

19

00:01:19,136 --> 00:01:24,376

there have been some consistent themes related to graduate admissions and the work

20

00:01:24,376 --> 00:01:30,656

that admissions committees do that really forms  
the foundation of the tips on insider tricks

21

00:01:30,656 --> 00:01:32,016

that I'm going to share with you today.

22

00:01:32,686 --> 00:01:38,836

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

23

00:01:38,936 --> 00:01:41,286

And starting and raising my family.

24

00:01:41,466 --> 00:01:46,956

So for a lot of individuals I have been in  
your shoes, I know what it's like to try

25

00:01:46,956 --> 00:01:53,136

and explore these various options, and try to  
assess whether or not you can make this work

26

00:01:53,136 --> 00:01:54,726

with your already pretty busy lives.

27

00:01:55,696 --> 00:02:00,396

So again, I'm going to share my  
perspective and experience in these areas

28

00:02:00,396 --> 00:02:05,026

and hopefully you will walk  
away with some tips on how

29

00:02:05,026 --> 00:02:06,966

to put together really strong applications.

30

00:02:07,896 --> 00:02:09,986

So here's our agenda for today.

31

00:02:09,986 --> 00:02:13,456

First, I want to talk about why you  
should even consider graduate school.

32

00:02:13,456 --> 00:02:15,326

What are the benefits associated with that?

33

00:02:15,836 --> 00:02:21,176

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

34

00:02:21,806 --> 00:02:27,056

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

35

00:02:27,166 --> 00:02:33,196

I've had the benefit of advising and working  
with hundreds of applicants during my career

36

00:02:33,196 --> 00:02:36,606

and reviewed literally thousands  
of applications.

37

00:02:37,246 --> 00:02:42,506

So, let's take some of the lessons that  
I learned from working with individuals

38

00:02:42,506 --> 00:02:48,086

on what not to do and what also really  
helped those candidates stand out.

39

00:02:48,346 --> 00:02:51,296

So, why should you consider graduate school?

40

00:02:51,626 --> 00:02:57,236

So as part of my work as a consultant, I had the  
opportunity to actually research what are some

41

00:02:57,236 --> 00:02:59,926

of the ways that individuals, or what are some

42

00:02:59,926 --> 00:03:03,576

of the reasons behind why individuals  
choose to pursue graduate school.

43

00:03:03,676 --> 00:03:06,236

So if you were in the room  
with me, I'd be asking you,

44

00:03:06,876 --> 00:03:11,496

but since we're doing this virtually, let

me just share some of the highlights related

45

00:03:11,496 --> 00:03:17,446

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

46

00:03:19,456 --> 00:03:23,006

First, graduate school is  
an investment in yourself.

47

00:03:23,156 --> 00:03:29,216

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

48

00:03:29,316 --> 00:03:32,976

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

49

00:03:34,476 --> 00:03:39,946

Pursuing a masters degree can actually  
increase your long-term earning potential

50

00:03:40,106 --> 00:03:44,496



and make you even more competitive,  
more recession-proof,

51

00:03:44,626 --> 00:03:46,966

than a bachelors degree alone would.

52

00:03:47,236 --> 00:03:48,686

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

53

00:03:48,686 --> 00:03:52,336

This is data from the Bureau  
of Labor Statistics,

54

00:03:52,336 --> 00:03:55,546

it is the most recent aggregate  
data that is available.

55

00:03:55,906 --> 00:04:00,946

And as you can see here, the  
difference between various degrees

56

00:04:00,946 --> 00:04:06,586

of educational attainment related to bachelors

degree holders, associate degree holders,

57

00:04:06,646 --> 00:04:08,786

but also masters and professional degrees.

58

00:04:09,976 --> 00:04:16,756

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

59

00:04:16,756 --> 00:04:21,816

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

60

00:04:21,816 --> 00:04:23,606

And that is an average.

61

00:04:23,696 --> 00:04:30,286

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

62

00:04:30,286 --> 00:04:37,856

I think what's also important about this data point is to demonstrate the unemployment rate

63

00:04:38,236 --> 00:04:41,176

for those with higher levels  
of educational attainment.

64

00:04:41,506 --> 00:04:45,736

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

65

00:04:45,966 --> 00:04:48,446

And a lot of you may remember  
what was happening.

66

00:04:48,446 --> 00:04:51,556

It was the height of the financial crisis.

67

00:04:51,556 --> 00:04:55,186

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

68

00:04:55,186 --> 00:04:57,726

I was actually living and  
working in California at the time.

69

00:04:57,726 --> 00:05:02,946

And at that point, our unemployment rate in California was over 12.5%.

70

00:05:03,226 --> 00:05:07,866

It was a really scary time and I had just invested all of this time and energy and money

71

00:05:08,216 --> 00:05:10,166

into pursuing my own graduate degree.

72

00:05:10,776 --> 00:05:14,586

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

73

00:05:14,586 --> 00:05:21,546

In addition, I was also working with a number of other individuals who were also just

74

00:05:21,546 --> 00:05:24,846

about to consider pursuing graduate degrees.

75

00:05:24,846 --> 00:05:26,316

Or a graduate education.

76

00:05:26,906 --> 00:05:28,226

So I did a little research.

77

00:05:28,226 --> 00:05:29,476

I dug into the data.

78

00:05:30,146 --> 00:05:38,346

And while the average unemployment rate at that time was 12.5%, what we found when I looked

79

00:05:38,346 --> 00:05:44,836

into the data, was that bachelors degree holders had about a 7% unemployment rate.

80

00:05:45,546 --> 00:05:51,146

Still not as exciting as what we would want or what we would hope but certainly better outcomes

81

00:05:51,226 --> 00:05:53,616

than those without a bachelors degree.

82

00:05:54,366 --> 00:05:58,676

But the story became even more  
compelling when I looked into data related

83

00:05:58,676 --> 00:06:01,486

to graduate masters degree holders.

84

00:06:02,076 --> 00:06:08,086

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

85

00:06:09,296 --> 00:06:14,266

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

86

00:06:14,776 --> 00:06:19,246

What was happening in California was certainly  
a precursor of what was going to trickle

87

00:06:19,246 --> 00:06:22,456

across the US economy and

then the global economy.

88

00:06:23,416 --> 00:06:27,646

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

89

00:06:28,276 --> 00:06:32,536

And while we are experiencing  
record unemployment

90

00:06:33,076 --> 00:06:37,286

or record employment rates right  
now and very low unemployment rates,

91

00:06:37,866 --> 00:06:40,066

that is not always going to be the case.

92

00:06:40,376 --> 00:06:45,756

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

93

00:06:46,316 --> 00:06:51,426

So, by investing in yourself, not only

are you increasing your earning potential,

94

00:06:51,906 --> 00:06:55,126

but you are also increasing your employability.

95

00:06:55,126 --> 00:06:58,746

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

96

00:06:59,126 --> 00:07:02,716

it is not the individuals who  
are bringing the most value

97

00:07:02,716 --> 00:07:05,566

to the table that companies are laying off.

98

00:07:05,566 --> 00:07:12,106

It's those individuals who are going to help  
the companies navigate, whether it be recessions

99

00:07:12,106 --> 00:07:17,986

or economic downturns, in order to  
come out stronger on the other side.



100

00:07:18,486 --> 00:07:24,466

In addition to your employability,  
for a lot of individuals,

101

00:07:24,466 --> 00:07:28,156

pursuing a masters degree helps you get noticed.

102

00:07:28,156 --> 00:07:35,336

And for some degrees, or for some industries  
or positions, it is the bare minimum required

103

00:07:35,336 --> 00:07:39,146

for you to even be considered  
for certain types of positions.

104

00:07:40,066 --> 00:07:46,766

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

105

00:07:47,136 --> 00:07:52,296

Another important factor, and some which  
people don't always necessarily consider,

106

00:07:52,736 --> 00:07:55,806

is really about how it expands your network.

107

00:07:56,616 --> 00:08:03,066

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

108

00:08:03,466 --> 00:08:09,576

but you're going to be connected with a group  
of fellow students who are also connected

109

00:08:09,576 --> 00:08:15,006

to their industries, have variety of  
backgrounds coming into the programs,

110

00:08:15,466 --> 00:08:20,666

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

111

00:08:22,156 --> 00:08:27,566

LinkedIn did some research back  
in 2018 that showed that 85%

112

00:08:27,566 --> 00:08:30,066

of jobs are filled via networking.

113

00:08:30,456 --> 00:08:36,456

What better way to expand your network than  
to be working and studying with a cohort

114

00:08:36,456 --> 00:08:41,786

of students or with a classroom full of  
students who are also tied into the companies

115

00:08:41,786 --> 00:08:44,456

and the organizations that  
are of interest to you?

116

00:08:44,846 --> 00:08:50,176

As a matter of fact, additional research  
that LinkedIn did showed that 70 to 80%

117

00:08:50,176 --> 00:08:54,956

of jobs are filled before  
they're even posted on job boards.

118

00:08:55,436 --> 00:08:58,216

So the companies and organizations  
have the person

119

00:08:58,216 --> 00:09:01,566

in mind before the position is  
even posted by human resources.

120

00:09:02,236 --> 00:09:04,216

How do you find out about these positions?

121

00:09:04,746 --> 00:09:07,156

By having a strong, connected network.

122

00:09:07,246 --> 00:09:13,296

And Suffolk University can help bring  
you that with our collaborative classes,

123

00:09:13,296 --> 00:09:17,866

the ability to connect really  
well with our alumni,

124

00:09:17,866 --> 00:09:22,056

your fellow classmates, and  
of course your faculty.

125

00:09:22,826 --> 00:09:28,416

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

126

00:09:28,846 --> 00:09:31,536

So I was a psychology undergraduate.

127

00:09:31,756 --> 00:09:33,666

That's what I earned my bachelors degree in.

128

00:09:33,666 --> 00:09:35,776

So if any of you have taken a psychology class,

129

00:09:36,256 --> 00:09:40,406

you will recognize this graphic  
as Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

130

00:09:41,046 --> 00:09:45,766

Maslow believed that those basic needs need

131

00:09:45,766 --> 00:09:51,426

to be achieved before you can  
achieve your self actualization,

132

00:09:51,426 --> 00:09:53,376

or achieving your highest potential.

133

00:09:54,676 --> 00:09:59,906

Pursuing a graduate degree for a number  
of individuals is that long-standing goal

134

00:09:59,906 --> 00:10:02,746

that helps them achieve their  
greatest potential.

135

00:10:03,306 --> 00:10:10,136

And it allows you to gain insight, knowledge,  
and expertise in a way that you can't just get

136

00:10:10,136 --> 00:10:13,686

from reading a book or watching

videos on YouTube.

137

00:10:14,026 --> 00:10:18,566

Not that those aren't valuable tools as well to supplement, but there's something

138

00:10:18,566 --> 00:10:23,736

about the immersive experience about studying a particular discipline with faculty

139

00:10:23,736 --> 00:10:29,666

and with your fellow classmates that really help you, again, achieve mastery of that information.

140

00:10:32,366 --> 00:10:35,086

So, how can Suffolk help you get there?

141

00:10:35,566 --> 00:10:39,706

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

142

00:10:40,216 --> 00:10:44,796

And that allows us to be uniquely

positioned to help you succeed.

143

00:10:45,496 --> 00:10:51,166

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

144

00:10:51,706 --> 00:10:57,726

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

145

00:10:57,816 --> 00:11:02,356

and help you gain additional  
experience along the way.

146

00:11:02,556 --> 00:11:04,966

So what makes up the Suffolk experience?

147

00:11:05,556 --> 00:11:08,666

There are really three pillars  
that are foundational

148

00:11:08,706 --> 00:11:16,636

to how our faculty have designed the courses



as well as the programs that we offer.

149

00:11:17,936 --> 00:11:21,386

One is it's really grounded  
in experiential learning.

150

00:11:21,386 --> 00:11:26,156

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

151

00:11:26,326 --> 00:11:33,506

So all of our programs include practicums,  
working with companies and organizations,

152

00:11:33,816 --> 00:11:38,576

having that real-world experience,  
whether that be problems or issues

153

00:11:39,016 --> 00:11:44,256

that these organizations are facing that you are  
then applying what you learned in the classroom

154

00:11:44,256 --> 00:11:45,956

to help them solve those challenges.

155

00:11:46,746 --> 00:11:49,196

The second is being self-aware.

156

00:11:49,356 --> 00:11:52,986

So having the opportunity to  
really know what your strengths are

157

00:11:53,536 --> 00:11:56,336

and where your opportunities for growth are.

158

00:11:56,986 --> 00:12:03,006

So a wide variety of support services,  
whether that be through professional

159

00:12:03,006 --> 00:12:09,506

and career development, outside opportunities,  
outside of the classroom opportunities

160

00:12:09,506 --> 00:12:15,696

for networking, hearing from speakers, people  
who are working in these various careers,

161

00:12:15,986 --> 00:12:19,466

and being connected with the industries that make Boston thrive.

162

00:12:20,056 --> 00:12:23,846

Finally, the third pillar is understanding.

163

00:12:24,056 --> 00:12:30,296

So providing faculty that are seasoned, that are professional, that have their hand not only

164

00:12:30,296 --> 00:12:36,926

in academia, but also are working outside of their academic roles as practitioners

165

00:12:37,226 --> 00:12:39,766

to help bring that expertise into the classroom.

166

00:12:40,146 --> 00:12:46,716

But also are bringing that to a place where you can learn and grow and absorb that material.

167

00:12:47,176 --> 00:12:54,156

So that Suffolk experience is learning by doing, working with real companies, businesses,

168

00:12:54,156 --> 00:13:00,086

and professionals, small class sizes that help foster that learning, personal attention

169

00:13:00,086 --> 00:13:06,266

and mentoring, connections to the Boston business and organizational community,

170

00:13:06,586 --> 00:13:11,026

and then our seasoned and professional faculty that really make up that Suffolk experience.

171

00:13:11,476 --> 00:13:13,826

So let's talk about that faculty.

172

00:13:14,556 --> 00:13:19,586

Our faculty are made up of both practitioners and academics.

173

00:13:19,586 --> 00:13:23,606

As a matter of fact, over 90%  
have terminal degrees or PhDs.

174

00:13:24,306 --> 00:13:25,746

So why is that important?

175

00:13:26,826 --> 00:13:33,416

Their experience, their expertise, really  
allows faculty to tailor their classes

176

00:13:33,956 --> 00:13:41,856

in a real way related to what industries  
are looking for, how they can be responsive

177

00:13:41,856 --> 00:13:46,936

to the needs of the business and  
organizational communities that we partner with,

178

00:13:47,616 --> 00:13:53,856

but also to adapt in real time based on what you

179

00:13:53,856 --> 00:13:57,446

and your classmates need to  
be successful and to succeed.

180

00:13:58,126 --> 00:14:01,476

So they aren't just teaching out  
of books, they're not just teaching

181

00:14:01,476 --> 00:14:03,766

from content that other people have created.

182

00:14:03,766 --> 00:14:09,976

But by having that expertise, they're bringing  
that into the classroom and being able to adapt

183

00:14:10,276 --> 00:14:16,226

in a way that really makes it a very  
exciting and dynamic classroom experience.

184

00:14:17,026 --> 00:14:23,596

I've also mentioned our downtown Boston  
location, but Boston is such a vibrant area.

185

00:14:24,196 --> 00:14:31,366

It is called the hub for a lot of great reasons,  
not the least of which is the center of access

186

00:14:31,366 --> 00:14:38,866

and opportunity to industries such as innovation  
and technology, finance, media, government,

187

00:14:38,866 --> 00:14:42,526

financial services, transportation,  
biotech, healthcare.

188

00:14:42,966 --> 00:14:50,466

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

189

00:14:50,466 --> 00:14:55,376

Our location in the heart of it all  
allows us to take advantage of it in a way

190

00:14:55,596 --> 00:14:58,496

that other universities can't  
necessarily leverage.

191

00:14:59,526 --> 00:15:06,826

It's really exciting to be able to see our  
students step right across from the state house

192

00:15:06,906 --> 00:15:12,756

to take advantage of maybe internship  
and opportunities where blocks away

193

00:15:12,756 --> 00:15:16,676

from the financial district, we're  
just a couple of T stops away

194

00:15:16,936 --> 00:15:18,776

from the Longwood Medical Center area.

195

00:15:19,276 --> 00:15:23,726

So whether you're talking about healthcare,  
government, finance, business, marketing,

196

00:15:23,726 --> 00:15:26,636

communication, we're at the heart of all of it.

197



00:15:26,636 --> 00:15:30,286

And it's great to see our  
students take advantage of that.

198

00:15:30,686 --> 00:15:33,886

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

199

00:15:34,506 --> 00:15:36,896

First, let me talk about graduate certificates

200

00:15:36,896 --> 00:15:42,616

and how graduate certificates may help you  
depending on where you are in your career.

201

00:15:43,476 --> 00:15:47,746

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

202

00:15:47,956 --> 00:15:50,106

First and foremost, career changers.

203

00:15:50,406 --> 00:15:53,876

So for some of you, you may  
have fallen into your job.

204

00:15:53,876 --> 00:15:58,116

Maybe, like me, your discipline  
was not necessarily related

205

00:15:58,186 --> 00:16:00,956

to the work that you are currently doing.

206

00:16:01,346 --> 00:16:07,376

The certificate allows you to make that  
transition, make that shift to be able

207

00:16:07,376 --> 00:16:09,726

to enhance your knowledge in a specific area.

208

00:16:10,796 --> 00:16:13,566

The other group of individuals

209

00:16:13,566 --> 00:16:18,106

who really gravitate towards our graduate  
certificates are those career enhancers.

210

00:16:18,716 --> 00:16:24,916

So these are people who want to continue to learn and grow, be up on the cutting edge

211

00:16:25,256 --> 00:16:30,766

in terms of what their discipline is, maybe they already study the accounting or the finance

212

00:16:30,766 --> 00:16:34,526

or the psychology, but they want to continue to enhance their skills.

213

00:16:35,456 --> 00:16:38,396

And then finally, it's those career assessors.

214

00:16:38,396 --> 00:16:44,566

They know graduate school is probably in their future, but they're not necessarily sure whether

215

00:16:44,566 --> 00:16:46,826

or not they want to commit to a full degree.

216

00:16:47,236 --> 00:16:50,086

Our graduate certificates  
really provide our students

217

00:16:50,086 --> 00:16:52,816

with the opportunity to test out the degree.

218

00:16:53,166 --> 00:16:58,206

And for most of our certificate programs,  
after you've completed the certificate,

219

00:16:58,776 --> 00:17:03,416

those courses could actually transfer into  
the corresponding full degree program,

220

00:17:03,706 --> 00:17:07,666

so you're not losing ground if you decide  
that you do really want to continue

221

00:17:07,666 --> 00:17:09,486

and pursue that full masters degree.

222

00:17:10,446 --> 00:17:13,746

These are all great ways to  
add to your resume and again,

223

00:17:13,746 --> 00:17:17,696

help you stand out in a competitive  
business environment.

224

00:17:17,906 --> 00:17:22,686

So next up I want to talk a  
little bit about the difference

225

00:17:22,726 --> 00:17:26,026

between some of our types of programs.

226

00:17:26,276 --> 00:17:33,486

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

227

00:17:33,716 --> 00:17:38,356

And in a moment I'm going to highlight some of  
the specialized masters degrees that we offer.

228

00:17:38,936 --> 00:17:41,646

But I wanted to mention the  
difference between the two.

229

00:17:41,826 --> 00:17:48,546

First of all, the MBA really provides  
a foundation that would be applicable

230

00:17:48,546 --> 00:17:52,666

across a broad range of industries  
and functional areas.

231

00:17:53,316 --> 00:17:58,176

So you are going to get those  
fundamentals in finance, in accounting,

232

00:17:58,176 --> 00:18:04,006

in organizational behavior, in marketing,  
really understanding how businesses work.

233

00:18:04,756 --> 00:18:10,536

MBA's typically, and Suffolk is no  
exception, typically require work experience.

234

00:18:11,456 --> 00:18:14,716

But it's a great fit for  
candidates who are looking to move

235

00:18:14,716 --> 00:18:19,106

up into management roles or  
to pivot and change careers.

236

00:18:19,106 --> 00:18:22,846

So the MBA can really provide  
that stepping stone

237

00:18:22,846 --> 00:18:26,456

to help you take advantage  
of those opportunities.

238

00:18:27,736 --> 00:18:35,616

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

239

00:18:36,026 --> 00:18:39,426

For most of our programs, these masters degrees,

240

00:18:39,426 --> 00:18:43,056

these specialized masters,  
don't require work experience.

241

00:18:43,456 --> 00:18:46,196

And they are a great fit for  
candidates who are looking

242

00:18:46,196 --> 00:18:49,256

to become a specialist within  
a certain discipline.

243

00:18:50,856 --> 00:18:55,546

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

244

00:18:55,616 --> 00:19:02,646

As you can see, we have a wide variety of  
degrees across our college of arts and sciences

245

00:19:02,646 --> 00:19:09,116

and the Sawyer Business School that really  
highlight disciplines in business, healthcare,



246

00:19:09,486 --> 00:19:15,746

media and communications, government  
non-profits, as well as art and design.

247

00:19:16,556 --> 00:19:22,446

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

248

00:19:23,086 --> 00:19:29,196

So these options provide you the opportunity  
to focus or specialize in more than one area,

249

00:19:30,256 --> 00:19:34,176

taking less time than if you were  
to do these degrees separately.

250

00:19:34,906 --> 00:19:41,116

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

251

00:19:41,676 --> 00:19:46,176

and you know, we are always more

than happy to discuss with you some

252

00:19:46,176 --> 00:19:48,936

of the specifics related  
to each of these programs.

253

00:19:49,906 --> 00:19:52,976

But next up, rather than  
getting into the details

254

00:19:52,976 --> 00:19:58,366

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

255

00:19:58,366 --> 00:20:01,976

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

256

00:20:02,046 --> 00:20:09,276

So, at Suffolk University, we approach  
the application process in a couple

257

00:20:09,276 --> 00:20:12,416

of different ways depending on the  
program that you were interested in.

258

00:20:13,196 --> 00:20:18,476

For most of our masters degree programs,  
we have what we call rolling admission

259

00:20:18,826 --> 00:20:23,666

with priority application deadlines  
associated with the start track.

260

00:20:23,896 --> 00:20:28,856

What rolling admission means is rather  
than waiting for a specific deadline

261

00:20:28,856 --> 00:20:35,136

to evaluate all applications at once,  
we are reviewing your application

262

00:20:35,206 --> 00:20:42,796

as it becomes complete and generally providing  
you with an admissions decision within two

263

00:20:42,796 --> 00:20:49,536

to three weeks of your application becoming complete and the reviews starting in our office.

264

00:20:50,736 --> 00:20:56,396

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

265

00:20:56,816 --> 00:21:02,736

So that falls in line with our PhD programs, our medical dosimetry program,

266

00:21:02,736 --> 00:21:05,436

and our mental health counseling program.

267

00:21:06,066 --> 00:21:13,406

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

268

00:21:14,166 --> 00:21:20,326

And in general, we follow up within a specific deadline, anywhere from 6 to 8 weeks,

269

00:21:20,616 --> 00:21:24,036

after that round deadline has hit.

270

00:21:24,876 --> 00:21:30,976

The reason why these specific programs at  
Suffolk have these round-based deadlines is

271

00:21:30,976 --> 00:21:34,386

because of the nature of the  
program and the practicums,

272

00:21:34,386 --> 00:21:36,736

or the way the programs are designed.

273

00:21:37,086 --> 00:21:40,476

We are more space limited with these programs.

274

00:21:40,576 --> 00:21:46,146

And so we want to be able to provide all of  
our applicants an opportunity to be evaluated

275

00:21:46,146 --> 00:21:49,416

and not have the class fill

even before the deadline hits.

276

00:21:49,416 --> 00:21:57,466

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

277

00:21:58,456 --> 00:22:00,236

Why do we have an application to begin with?

278

00:22:00,636 --> 00:22:04,756

Well we want to make sure that you are academically prepared,

279

00:22:04,946 --> 00:22:11,196

that you're going to be able to do well in the program, we evaluate that based on the work

280

00:22:11,196 --> 00:22:15,256

that you've done prior, whether that be your undergraduate or graduate

281

00:22:15,256 --> 00:22:19,376

or certificate course work that

you've taken up to this point.

282

00:22:19,376 --> 00:22:23,156

I'm also going to talk about  
standardized test scores

283

00:22:23,156 --> 00:22:25,846

and how that fits in at Suffolk University.

284

00:22:26,476 --> 00:22:29,596

And for some of our programs,  
supporting documentation,

285

00:22:29,596 --> 00:22:32,786

such as portfolios for our  
art and design programs.

286

00:22:33,166 --> 00:22:37,516

The other factors that we  
look at include your goals.

287

00:22:38,536 --> 00:22:43,946

Are we aligned as an institution with

what you are interested in pursuing

288

00:22:43,946 --> 00:22:45,806

and what those longer term goals are?

289

00:22:46,706 --> 00:22:51,076

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

290

00:22:51,076 --> 00:22:53,126

but are we the right fit for you as well?

291

00:22:53,786 --> 00:22:57,736

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

292

00:22:58,106 --> 00:23:02,496

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

293

00:23:03,116 --> 00:23:09,026

As well as what your recommenders tell us  
about you, how well you might be aligned



294

00:23:09,026 --> 00:23:11,346

with success in a particular discipline.

295

00:23:11,816 --> 00:23:16,186

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

296

00:23:16,566 --> 00:23:22,536

Regardless of the industry or the role  
that you are in, having strong written

297

00:23:22,536 --> 00:23:26,016

and verbal communication skills  
is essential to be successful.

298

00:23:26,486 --> 00:23:31,316

So again, that essay is performing  
double duty, providing us the opportunity

299

00:23:31,316 --> 00:23:33,586

to assess your written communication skills.

300

00:23:33,916 --> 00:23:39,216

And then interviews are an important part of the process for us.

301

00:23:39,216 --> 00:23:43,516

We will always grant interviews for applicants who are interested.

302

00:23:43,876 --> 00:23:47,456

Some programs require interviews as a part of their process.

303

00:23:48,036 --> 00:23:52,646

Whereas other programs may not require it, but will invite candidates

304

00:23:52,646 --> 00:23:55,486

in for interviews whether or not they have requested it.

305

00:23:56,776 --> 00:23:59,956

So, let's talk about standardized tests.

306

00:24:00,806 --> 00:24:04,626

So good news for a lot of people,  
standardized tests make some people cringe

307

00:24:04,626 --> 00:24:09,656

when you think back to maybe taking  
the SAT or ACT or other, you know,

308

00:24:09,706 --> 00:24:12,236

sort of standardized tests  
that you were applying college.

309

00:24:12,716 --> 00:24:17,596

At Suffolk University, we recognize  
that you are more than just a score

310

00:24:17,716 --> 00:24:21,036

on a given day for an exam that you have taken.

311

00:24:21,456 --> 00:24:26,596

So for a number of our programs,  
the GRE or GMAT is not required.

312

00:24:27,686 --> 00:24:33,496

For other programs, it is either required or a test waiver is possible.

313

00:24:33,906 --> 00:24:37,956

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

314

00:24:38,526 --> 00:24:44,636

Our MS in finance, the GMAT or the GRE is an option, although waivers are available

315

00:24:44,636 --> 00:24:49,536

for candidates who meet certain academic criteria or work experience criteria.

316

00:24:50,116 --> 00:24:55,176

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

317

00:24:56,446 --> 00:25:02,986

And all of the dual degrees with the law school will require either the LSAT or the GRE.

318

00:25:03,246 --> 00:25:06,306

But for the vast majority, if you  
remember the couple slides ago,

319

00:25:06,606 --> 00:25:08,886

that list of programs that I showed you?

320

00:25:09,636 --> 00:25:16,276

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

321

00:25:16,516 --> 00:25:21,046

Now that being said, for those  
candidates who have taken the test

322

00:25:21,046 --> 00:25:25,746

or feel like the test is an accurate  
representation of their ability,

323

00:25:25,986 --> 00:25:29,156

or maybe want to be able to  
demonstrate to the admissions committee

324

00:25:29,646 --> 00:25:31,206

that they have strength in an area.

325

00:25:31,376 --> 00:25:36,386

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

326

00:25:36,556 --> 00:25:40,046

Maybe they had a slow start or maybe  
they were in the wrong major at first

327

00:25:40,046 --> 00:25:45,246

and their GPA isn't necessarily reflective  
of what they feel their ability is.

328

00:25:45,506 --> 00:25:52,556

For others, it is maybe they were working  
in one discipline that was less quantitative

329

00:25:52,556 --> 00:25:55,776

and they are applying for a more  
quantitative type of degree.

330

00:25:56,066 --> 00:25:58,616

They want to be able to demonstrate their quantitative skills.

331

00:25:58,616 --> 00:26:01,486

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

332

00:26:01,746 --> 00:26:07,396

The GMAT or the GRE is a great tool to be able to demonstrate that aptitude,

333

00:26:07,396 --> 00:26:10,256

maybe make up for a weaker undergraduate record.

334

00:26:10,496 --> 00:26:13,066

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

335

00:26:14,056 --> 00:26:16,976

So, we will always accept your GMAT and GRE scores.

336

00:26:16,976 --> 00:26:19,366

We welcome your submission of those scores.

337

00:26:20,126 --> 00:26:25,986

And for those candidates who are interested,  
there are a lot of resources out there on how

338

00:26:25,986 --> 00:26:31,056

to prepare for the GMAT and the GRE that are  
free to you where you can get some great tips

339

00:26:31,056 --> 00:26:34,816

and tricks on how to prepare  
yourself for those exams.

340

00:26:34,956 --> 00:26:39,406

So next up I want to talk about the essay.

341

00:26:39,646 --> 00:26:43,376

As I mentioned, the essay, the goal statement,  
the personal statement, whatever you call it,

342



00:26:43,626 --> 00:26:46,616

that's a really important tool  
for us to get to know you,

343

00:26:46,616 --> 00:26:53,516

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

344

00:26:53,516 --> 00:26:58,066

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

345

00:26:58,146 --> 00:27:05,166

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

346

00:27:05,446 --> 00:27:10,416

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

347

00:27:11,076 --> 00:27:17,116

I like to say that really  
strong essays have three Cs.

348

00:27:18,106 --> 00:27:24,246

First is they are clear, second they are concise, and third, they are consistent

349

00:27:24,246 --> 00:27:25,676

with the rest of their application.

350

00:27:26,116 --> 00:27:27,546

So what do I mean by that?

351

00:27:28,076 --> 00:27:35,296

In terms of being clear, what you should aim to strive for is conveying to us

352

00:27:35,576 --> 00:27:40,586

that compelling story as to why you want this particular program

353

00:27:40,586 --> 00:27:43,116

and why you want it at Suffolk University.

354

00:27:44,716 --> 00:27:52,126

In general, students who stick to those themes  
and can really answer that question tend

355

00:27:52,126 --> 00:27:56,516

to make a compelling case, as opposed  
to trying to fit their entire life story

356

00:27:56,516 --> 00:28:00,486

or their entire educational  
background into that goal statement.

357

00:28:01,016 --> 00:28:05,976

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

358

00:28:07,076 --> 00:28:11,746

Well, as I mentioned before, having  
really strong communication skills,

359

00:28:11,746 --> 00:28:15,416

written communication skills is important to us.

360

00:28:15,516 --> 00:28:19,276

One of the ways that you can convey  
those communication skills is

361

00:28:19,596 --> 00:28:21,926

by being concise in your writing.

362

00:28:22,576 --> 00:28:30,106

We don't need to have a 10 page dissertation  
or a 20 page dissertation as to your background

363

00:28:30,106 --> 00:28:32,116

and why you want this particular degree.

364

00:28:32,326 --> 00:28:42,826

So I have also found that students can do really  
well within 250 to 500 words at most in terms

365

00:28:42,826 --> 00:28:45,596

of conveying what it is that  
they are looking for.

366

00:28:46,966 --> 00:28:50,596

And why Suffolk is a good fit for them.

367

00:28:50,796 --> 00:28:52,686

Now, third C, consistent.

368

00:28:52,976 --> 00:28:54,946

What do I mean about being consistent?

369

00:28:55,196 --> 00:29:00,536

Well, it's really important to understand what your story is, to have done the research,

370

00:29:00,866 --> 00:29:06,036

to have done that self reflection as to why you want to pursue a particular degree,

371

00:29:06,376 --> 00:29:09,096

and to convey that information to us.

372

00:29:09,336 --> 00:29:13,156

And have that be consistent throughout your application.

373

00:29:14,116 --> 00:29:20,716

So, when you are being consistent, that means  
doing things such as preparing your recommenders

374

00:29:20,716 --> 00:29:25,766

as to why you want to pursue a degree  
and hopefully having them fill in some

375

00:29:25,766 --> 00:29:29,126

of that context into their  
letters of recommendation.

376

00:29:29,696 --> 00:29:36,686

It's about telling a story that is consistent  
with why you say you want to pursue the degree.

377

00:29:37,066 --> 00:29:41,666

And having that story in mind so that if  
you do meet with us or do interview as part

378

00:29:41,666 --> 00:29:45,026

of your process, that you're  
conveying those themes to us.

379

00:29:45,406 --> 00:29:50,526

It makes a really clear case when you are consistent throughout your application.

380

00:29:52,056 --> 00:29:54,606

So I mentioned letters of recommendation.

381

00:29:54,636 --> 00:29:58,686

And I want to dive into that just a little bit more.

382

00:29:59,346 --> 00:30:00,976

So, first question is who do you ask?

383

00:30:02,646 --> 00:30:07,056

And some candidates will say well, I should, you know, talk to former professors.

384

00:30:07,596 --> 00:30:12,906

Others say well I should try to get them from managers or supervisors,

385

00:30:12,906 --> 00:30:14,736

people in a more professional setting.

386

00:30:15,606 --> 00:30:19,446

And what I like to say to that--

387

00:30:19,806 --> 00:30:25,746

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

388

00:30:25,746 --> 00:30:27,356

but they could also be both wrong.

389

00:30:27,826 --> 00:30:32,816

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

390

00:30:33,026 --> 00:30:38,656

So first and foremost, I strongly encourage you to connect with Suffolk University

391

00:30:38,656 --> 00:30:42,746

and the Office of Graduate Admission



to have a conversation about what it is

392

00:30:42,746 --> 00:30:46,586

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

393

00:30:47,336 --> 00:30:49,356

There are some programs in our portfolio

394

00:30:49,356 --> 00:30:53,446

where they strictly want academic letters of recommendation.

395

00:30:53,766 --> 00:30:59,576

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

396

00:30:59,786 --> 00:31:04,406

Other programs strictly want professional letters of recommendation.

397

00:31:04,936 --> 00:31:09,696

And having a letter from a

manager or a supervisor or someone

398

00:31:09,696 --> 00:31:13,096

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

399

00:31:13,356 --> 00:31:17,836

Those are going to be much more  
compelling than academic letters

400

00:31:17,896 --> 00:31:19,886

that occurred maybe a few years before.

401

00:31:20,306 --> 00:31:22,846

For some programs, they don't care.

402

00:31:22,966 --> 00:31:28,026

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

403

00:31:28,356 --> 00:31:31,126

So again, getting to know what  
it is that the program is looking

404

00:31:31,126 --> 00:31:33,796

for really helps you set  
yourself up for success.

405

00:31:34,796 --> 00:31:37,006

The other point that I want  
to make about letters

406

00:31:37,006 --> 00:31:40,696

of recommendation is how you  
can prepare your recommenders.

407

00:31:41,536 --> 00:31:46,996

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

408

00:31:47,036 --> 00:31:51,436

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

409

00:31:51,436 --> 00:31:55,206

And for some candidates it has really

led to some really great opportunities

410

00:31:55,206 --> 00:31:57,256

for them in their professional setting.

411

00:31:57,516 --> 00:32:03,076

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

412

00:32:03,076 --> 00:32:07,886

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

413

00:32:07,886 --> 00:32:10,456

that really helped them to develop professionally.

414

00:32:10,896 --> 00:32:13,906

So how do you prepare your recommender?

415

00:32:13,966 --> 00:32:19,866

Well, do things such as polish up your resume, think about some of the things,

416

00:32:19,866 --> 00:32:24,796

maybe have your goal statement or  
your essay outline or even draft it.

417

00:32:25,986 --> 00:32:28,706

Take your recommender out  
for either coffee or lunch.

418

00:32:29,466 --> 00:32:30,966

Buy the coffee or the lunch.

419

00:32:31,486 --> 00:32:35,436

And sit down with them and talk to  
them about your professional goals

420

00:32:35,436 --> 00:32:38,496

and how you think graduate  
school will prepare you for that.

421

00:32:38,496 --> 00:32:40,916

It's also a great precursor for that interview.

422

00:32:40,916 --> 00:32:43,606

Sort of a warm up informational interview

423

00:32:43,606 --> 00:32:46,186

where you're sharing these  
highlights with your recommender.

424

00:32:47,606 --> 00:32:52,246

You will find that it will give them  
the opportunity to really craft a letter

425

00:32:52,246 --> 00:32:57,916

of recommendation that provides much more  
depth and insight than if you just ask them

426

00:32:57,916 --> 00:33:02,026

to write a letter but don't  
provide any guidance.

427

00:33:02,516 --> 00:33:04,886

So, we've also mentioned interviews.

428

00:33:05,716 --> 00:33:10,336

I won't spend a whole lot of time on  
talking about how to prepare for interviews

429

00:33:10,336 --> 00:33:14,906

because there's so many resources out there  
with a lot of career development professionals

430

00:33:14,906 --> 00:33:18,316

that can do a much better job than I can  
do in the time that we have allocated.

431

00:33:18,446 --> 00:33:25,176

But that being said, you should  
take the approach of the interview

432

00:33:25,176 --> 00:33:28,706

for graduate school the same  
way you would a job interview.

433

00:33:28,766 --> 00:33:35,496

So that means coming dressed to impress,  
so just as you would come in prepared

434

00:33:35,496 --> 00:33:40,826

if you were interviewing for a position, the  
difference is you are applying for the position

435

00:33:40,826 --> 00:33:46,606

of being a graduate student, not  
necessarily for a job at Suffolk University.

436

00:33:48,196 --> 00:33:53,686

You should also come in prepared to talk  
about your accomplishments, your highlights,

437

00:33:53,686 --> 00:33:55,896

what you think you would bring to the program.

438

00:33:55,896 --> 00:34:00,316

Just as you would with a job interview  
where you would want to go more in-depth

439

00:34:00,316 --> 00:34:04,826

in what your resume or your cover letter would  
say related to why you think you're a good fit



440

00:34:04,826 --> 00:34:08,376

for that position, it's the  
same type of approach

441

00:34:08,376 --> 00:34:10,316

when you're approaching your  
admissions interview.

442

00:34:10,316 --> 00:34:15,196

And finally, follow-up with a thank you.

443

00:34:15,196 --> 00:34:19,876

Email thank yous are fine, certainly  
card thank yous are becoming more

444

00:34:19,876 --> 00:34:22,506

and more rare in today's society.

445

00:34:22,826 --> 00:34:24,926

But you know, do that follow-up.

446

00:34:25,156 --> 00:34:30,316

Continue to show your professionalism, and  
take a few minutes to highlight and make

447

00:34:30,316 --> 00:34:34,656

that last case as to why you  
think you are a good fit.

448

00:34:34,876 --> 00:34:39,326

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

449

00:34:40,136 --> 00:34:47,186

So, we've talked about the application process,  
we've talked about the various programs

450

00:34:47,186 --> 00:34:49,626

and opportunities that Suffolk University has.

451

00:34:49,626 --> 00:34:53,826

And we also talked about how  
graduate education is an investment.

452

00:34:54,326 --> 00:34:59,896

Well, it's an investment that we  
also strongly believe in and support.

453

00:35:00,606 --> 00:35:03,906

So in terms of financing your  
education, there are a number

454

00:35:03,906 --> 00:35:05,556

of different routes that you can take.

455

00:35:05,826 --> 00:35:10,436

First and foremost, whether you are a  
part-time student or a full-time student,

456

00:35:10,716 --> 00:35:17,536

Suffolk University has made the commitment to  
invest in our students in terms of scholarships.

457

00:35:17,696 --> 00:35:22,556

So we spend millions of dollars a year  
actually investing in our students

458

00:35:22,586 --> 00:35:24,686

through our merit-based scholarship program.

459

00:35:25,126 --> 00:35:31,156

There is not a separate application for those scholarships, those scholarships are included as

460

00:35:31,156 --> 00:35:36,026

or you're evaluated for those scholarships as part of your application for admission.

461

00:35:36,476 --> 00:35:40,046

And if you qualify for merit based scholarships, you are notified at the time

462

00:35:40,046 --> 00:35:42,276

of admission what that scholarship looks like.

463

00:35:43,856 --> 00:35:47,836

There's also graduate loan funding available to students.

464

00:35:47,876 --> 00:35:57,086

So we have staff members in graduate financial

aid who work strictly with our graduate students

465

00:35:57,476 --> 00:36:03,036

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

466

00:36:03,956 --> 00:36:10,016

For US residents and permanent residents  
and US citizens, I would encourage you

467

00:36:10,016 --> 00:36:13,686

to also submit the free application  
for federal student aid.

468

00:36:13,686 --> 00:36:19,206

It's definitely a more streamlined application  
than it was even a number of years ago.

469

00:36:19,556 --> 00:36:25,596

But that provides you with access to  
some federal loan programs as well

470

00:36:25,596 --> 00:36:30,166

as other opportunities that aren't  
available to you if you don't complete that.

471

00:36:30,166 --> 00:36:33,236

And you don't need to wait for  
your admission decision to complete

472

00:36:33,236 --> 00:36:35,506

that free application for federal student aid.

473

00:36:36,216 --> 00:36:42,766

So, if you are considering, for example,  
applying for fall of 2020 admission

474

00:36:42,766 --> 00:36:47,426

for this coming September, I would encourage  
you to complete that FAFSA as soon as possible,

475

00:36:47,426 --> 00:36:49,286

even if you haven't started  
your application yet.

476

00:36:49,286 --> 00:36:52,606

And finally, there are other opportunities.

477

00:36:52,956 --> 00:36:58,006

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

478

00:36:58,006 --> 00:37:04,456

These companies and organizations that have  
committed to support their employees and members

479

00:37:04,996 --> 00:37:07,246

through partnering with Suffolk University.

480

00:37:07,506 --> 00:37:15,856

So for employees or members of our PSP  
organizations, those get a 10% discount

481

00:37:16,116 --> 00:37:18,766

if they don't qualify for other merit aid.

482

00:37:18,866 --> 00:37:23,756

So at minimum, you would receive  
a 10% discount off of tuition.

483

00:37:24,286 --> 00:37:28,546

For our executive MBA program, it's actually a 10,000 dollars scholarship

484

00:37:28,546 --> 00:37:31,436

versus the 10% discount.

485

00:37:31,436 --> 00:37:36,636

So if you qualify for merit aid that is greater than 10% discount,

486

00:37:36,636 --> 00:37:38,616

we will always give you the higher amounts.

487

00:37:39,026 --> 00:37:46,726

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

488

00:37:46,806 --> 00:37:49,136

We also have alumni scholarships.

489



00:37:49,536 --> 00:37:54,316

So for Suffolk undergraduates who completed their degree at Suffolk, again,

490

00:37:54,316 --> 00:37:58,516

who did not qualify for other merit aid, you're automatically considered

491

00:37:58,586 --> 00:38:04,376

for scholarships related to enrolling in graduate programs here at Suffolk University.

492

00:38:05,256 --> 00:38:11,076

So, at this point in time, I would like to encourage any questions

493

00:38:11,076 --> 00:38:14,296

that you might have so feel free to chat them in.

494

00:38:14,646 --> 00:38:17,536

And I also wanted to share our contact information.

495

00:38:18,186 --> 00:38:23,906

As I mentioned, we have a number of ways for you  
connect with the Office of Graduate Admission,

496

00:38:23,906 --> 00:38:28,856

so I would encourage you to call  
our office, email us with questions,

497

00:38:28,856 --> 00:38:33,026

but even more importantly, sit down  
with your graduate admissions counselor.

498

00:38:33,156 --> 00:38:39,436

So we have a team of graduate admissions staff  
who are assigned to a portfolio of programs.

499

00:38:39,836 --> 00:38:44,476

So they really are going to be experts in  
helping you navigate the admissions process

500

00:38:44,516 --> 00:38:47,396

for the specific program  
that you are interested in.

501

00:38:48,276 --> 00:38:52,906

We also have a number of opportunities for you to connect with faculty, with students,

502

00:38:52,906 --> 00:38:57,366

with alumni, and I would encourage you to participate in those as well.

503

00:38:57,636 --> 00:39:01,046

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

504

00:39:01,046 --> 00:39:04,516

Which will be a half day event on a Saturday.

505

00:39:04,566 --> 00:39:11,666

Which allows you to network with other individuals and also have the opportunity

506

00:39:11,766 --> 00:39:17,166

to meet with financial aid, with the programs, hear different presentations and so forth,

507

00:39:17,746 --> 00:39:22,406

to really get a feel for what it's like to be  
a graduate student here at Suffolk University.

508

00:39:22,576 --> 00:39:28,056

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

509

00:39:28,406 --> 00:39:31,356

So I did get a question that got chatted in.

510

00:39:31,736 --> 00:39:34,876

Someone has asked can I speak to the  
difference in the classroom experience

511

00:39:34,876 --> 00:39:36,596

from undergraduate to grad school?

512

00:39:37,236 --> 00:39:39,376

So, that's a great question.

513

00:39:39,376 --> 00:39:45,126

In terms of at least my experience and  
in talking to other graduate students,

514

00:39:45,686 --> 00:39:49,906

very often your undergraduate  
experience is you are in a classroom,

515

00:39:49,906 --> 00:39:54,496

even if there's some experiential learning,  
it's very much the faculty member tends

516

00:39:54,496 --> 00:39:59,586

to be designing the classroom or the  
classroom experience around lecturing,

517

00:39:59,586 --> 00:40:01,906

about imparting knowledge to you.

518

00:40:01,906 --> 00:40:09,746

You are also having the opportunity to explore  
a lot of options, but there's a lot of time

519

00:40:09,746 --> 00:40:14,706

for you to have to take, you know, core curriculum or classes and so forth.

520

00:40:15,226 --> 00:40:16,906

Graduate school is very different.

521

00:40:17,366 --> 00:40:24,806

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

522

00:40:25,116 --> 00:40:30,136

And what's really exciting about being in a graduate program is that you are learning

523

00:40:30,136 --> 00:40:34,576

from your classmates, from that extended network, as much as you are from the faculty.

524

00:40:35,096 --> 00:40:38,906

Because students tend to be coming in with a wide variety of experiences,

525

00:40:38,906 --> 00:40:44,466

either straight from undergrad, all the way  
up to multiple years or even, you know, 10,

526

00:40:44,466 --> 00:40:49,616

15 years of professional experience, that  
perspective is brought into the classroom

527

00:40:49,616 --> 00:40:53,096

and allows you to learn about  
things through a different lens.

528

00:40:53,906 --> 00:40:56,156

Graduate school is also very specialized.

529

00:40:56,156 --> 00:41:00,706

So you are really just focusing on the  
content at hand to become that specialist,

530

00:41:01,326 --> 00:41:04,496

which means that you are  
not taking a lot of courses

531

00:41:04,596 --> 00:41:09,586

from a general education perspective  
that's filling up your schedule.

532

00:41:10,976 --> 00:41:14,556

So, another question that has come  
in is how much time can I expect

533

00:41:14,556 --> 00:41:17,416

to spend on homework outside of class?

534

00:41:17,456 --> 00:41:23,886

Well this does vary from the time of  
the semester as well as your aptitude

535

00:41:23,886 --> 00:41:30,396

for certain material, but the general rule of  
thumb is you should expect to spend anywhere

536

00:41:30,436 --> 00:41:36,316

from an hour and a half to two hours outside  
of class for each hour that you are in class.

537



00:41:36,786 --> 00:41:41,866

So for example, if you are a part-time student taking six hours, taking two classes,

538

00:41:42,216 --> 00:41:49,086

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

539

00:41:49,086 --> 00:41:55,236

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

540

00:41:55,326 --> 00:41:57,256

preparing for exams, and so forth.

541

00:41:57,616 --> 00:42:04,986

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

542

00:42:05,216 --> 00:42:08,536

Next question, what is the minimum GPA required?

543

00:42:09,336 --> 00:42:14,336

So, for a number of our programs, we actually don't have a minimum GPA.

544

00:42:14,336 --> 00:42:18,176

Some programs do like to see at least a 3.0.

545

00:42:18,246 --> 00:42:22,076

So again, some of it is dependent on the program and how competitive the program is.

546

00:42:22,676 --> 00:42:30,376

With that being said, as I mentioned before, if you do have a concern about your GPA and whether

547

00:42:30,376 --> 00:42:36,336

or not it is below a 3.0 or maybe is a little bit weaker, taking the GMAT

548

00:42:36,336 --> 00:42:40,436

or the GRE is a great way to demonstrate your academic aptitude,

549

00:42:40,786 --> 00:42:43,316

which could then mitigate that lower GPA.

550

00:42:43,656 --> 00:42:48,056

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

551

00:42:48,686 --> 00:42:55,826

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

552

00:42:56,156 --> 00:43:00,906

your professional work experience, what  
your recommenders say about your ability

553

00:43:00,906 --> 00:43:06,076

to handle the coursework and contribute in a  
professional setting, your communication skills.

554

00:43:06,076 --> 00:43:09,576

So that entire package is what  
factors into our decision making.

555

00:43:10,916 --> 00:43:13,946

So next up, I've gotten a  
question around the difference

556

00:43:13,946 --> 00:43:17,546

between the MBA program and  
the executive MBA program.

557

00:43:18,016 --> 00:43:20,076

So thank you for asking that question.

558

00:43:20,126 --> 00:43:28,606

So, in terms of the MBA program, both really  
do expect that students are going to be coming

559

00:43:28,606 --> 00:43:31,436

in with a certain level of work experience.

560

00:43:31,836 --> 00:43:37,336

The difference between the profile of the  
executive MBA student is that they tend

561

00:43:37,336 --> 00:43:43,966

to have greater work experience coming into the

program than students in our MBA program do.

562

00:43:44,196 --> 00:43:49,966

So on average, our MBA program, those students have, you know, three and a half to five years

563

00:43:49,966 --> 00:43:52,956

of work experience, depending on the given year.

564

00:43:53,416 --> 00:43:59,486

Whereas our executive MBA students, they tend to have seven to nine years

565

00:43:59,546 --> 00:44:02,046

of work experience coming into the program.

566

00:44:02,386 --> 00:44:04,616

They tend to be in a more senior level.

567

00:44:04,956 --> 00:44:09,576

And for many of them, they are being supported or sponsored by their companies.

568

00:44:10,616 --> 00:44:13,876

Another difference is the format of the program.

569

00:44:13,916 --> 00:44:17,896

So our executive MBA program, because  
it is designed for those individuals

570

00:44:18,246 --> 00:44:24,256

with significantly more senior level work  
experience, it is a cohort based model.

571

00:44:24,356 --> 00:44:31,486

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

572

00:44:32,146 --> 00:44:38,856

Whereas our MBA program is one in which  
students can choose to go full-time or part-time

573

00:44:38,856 --> 00:44:42,756

in as little as 16 months and can  
take upwards of three to three

574

00:44:42,756 --> 00:44:47,346

and a half years if they're going part-time.

575

00:44:47,536 --> 00:44:49,266

So, next question.

576

00:44:49,326 --> 00:44:51,556

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

577

00:44:51,556 --> 00:44:56,136

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

578

00:44:56,766 --> 00:44:59,656

So in terms of our travel opportunities, yes,

579

00:44:59,786 --> 00:45:02,366

there's a wide variety of  
opportunities available.

580

00:45:02,366 --> 00:45:06,826

For some programs, like our  
executive MBA and our MBA program,

581

00:45:07,006 --> 00:45:12,616

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

582

00:45:12,616 --> 00:45:20,446

So it's a required part where you are spending a  
week to 10 days actually immersed in a country,

583

00:45:20,446 --> 00:45:26,896

visiting different companies, working on  
business problems, presenting your findings back

584

00:45:26,896 --> 00:45:29,366

to them, moving to another company the next day.

585

00:45:29,366 --> 00:45:36,576

So it's a pretty intensive timeframe that is  
led by faculty and provides you the opportunity

586

00:45:36,576 --> 00:45:38,636



to get that more immersive experience.

587

00:45:38,946 --> 00:45:44,946

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

588

00:45:45,136 --> 00:45:49,326

within the business school, is a  
great opportunity for you to have

589

00:45:49,326 --> 00:45:53,336

that immersive experience, it's just  
not necessarily a required part.

590

00:45:54,236 --> 00:45:59,526

We also have a lot of opportunities for  
students to get immersive experiences

591

00:45:59,606 --> 00:46:03,176

through a global network, whether  
that be through internships

592

00:46:03,686 --> 00:46:09,506

or other practicum experiences  
that they are taking advantage of.

593

00:46:09,506 --> 00:46:17,266

Okay. So last but not least, we have  
a question related to the best advice

594

00:46:17,296 --> 00:46:20,746

for putting together a strong application.

595

00:46:20,906 --> 00:46:28,266

So, as I mentioned before, really being  
deliberative about your application,

596

00:46:28,266 --> 00:46:33,556

preparing as if you were applying for  
a job, getting to know the program,

597

00:46:33,556 --> 00:46:39,376

what's unique about Suffolk, how it aligns  
with your goals, putting all of that together

598

00:46:39,376 --> 00:46:43,266

in an application that's consistent,  
that's clear, that's concise.

599

00:46:44,076 --> 00:46:46,186

That really does help you stand out.

600

00:46:46,256 --> 00:46:49,256

And I think the best way for  
you to be able to do that is

601

00:46:49,256 --> 00:46:51,906

to go beyond what the website can tell you.

602

00:46:52,096 --> 00:46:55,816

So, as I mentioned, you have  
the opportunity to visit us.

603

00:46:56,026 --> 00:46:59,506

Whether that be to come to our  
office, to attend one of our events

604

00:47:00,166 --> 00:47:03,476

that we are hosting either on

campus or around the region.

605

00:47:03,896 --> 00:47:07,946

I would encourage you to take  
advantage of that, to meet with and talk

606

00:47:07,946 --> 00:47:10,396

with as many different people as possible.

607

00:47:11,276 --> 00:47:15,916

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

608

00:47:16,276 --> 00:47:17,946

Get to know the program.

609

00:47:18,016 --> 00:47:22,776

And the more you get to know the program,  
not only are you deciding if it's a good fit

610

00:47:22,776 --> 00:47:30,206

for you, but it also helps you determine  
what you can highlight about yourself

611

00:47:30,206 --> 00:47:33,526

and your background that's going  
to be a great fit for that program.

612

00:47:33,526 --> 00:47:37,426

We always get very excited when we  
have someone that has, you know,

613

00:47:37,586 --> 00:47:45,036

really has given us some great perspective on  
the things that they want to take advantage of,

614

00:47:45,036 --> 00:47:50,136

whether it's that global travel seminar,  
whether it's working with a specific professor,

615

00:47:50,336 --> 00:47:54,566

whether it's the opportunity to take  
an idea that they have and to be able

616

00:47:54,566 --> 00:48:01,506

to leverage what Suffolk University can offer

them to be able to bring that idea to life.

617

00:48:01,836 --> 00:48:07,526

We get really excited when people go beyond just telling us what we've shared on the website

618

00:48:07,526 --> 00:48:09,996

about what Suffolk can offer them.

619

00:48:10,646 --> 00:48:13,606

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

620

00:48:13,606 --> 00:48:18,426

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

621

00:48:18,786 --> 00:48:24,396

I would again encourage you to contact us, visit our website, sign up for an upcoming event,

622

00:48:24,396 --> 00:48:29,116

and I look forward to meeting each and every

one of you at an upcoming recruiting event.

623

00:48:29,376 --> 00:48:30,006

So thank you!