So welcome everyone to Suffolk University's Grad School 101. My name is Heather O'Leary and I am the Director of Graduate Admission here at Suffolk University. Joining me today are my colleagues, Scott Carlson and Sydney Fonseca. I'm gonna have each of them introduce themselves a little bit about their background and the role they play here at Suffolk. So Scott, why don't we start with you?

Thank you. Hi everybody. I am Scott as mentioned, so I'm actually a current student here soon to be graduating with my MBA in a few weeks. And I am Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions as well. So I handle programs in the Political Science department, crime and justice studies, mental health counseling, and MPA. So I will put my contact info in the chat so we can definitely talk more about it.

And Sydney.

Thank you. Hi everybody. My name is Sydney. I am also an Assistant Director of Graduate Admission here at Suffolk University. I did my undergrad degree at Suffolk, but I also, while I was working in a different career, in data analytics, did my MBA at Suffolk University as well. So similar to Scott, we both soon will be MBA alumni, him joining me and I work on programs primarily in our business school.

So our MBA program, our executive MBA program, Ms and accounting, and then master of healthcare administration. So I also put my contact information in the chat for you all.

And we have two other colleagues that also support the rest of the graduate portfolio, Pierce Golden and Ben Woody. I actually will have a slide a little bit later on that will break down each of the recruiting teams, contact information and the programs that they work with. And Scott and Sydney are happy to also connect you with folks as we go throughout tonight's event. So as both Scott and Sydney mentioned, we do have the chat function.

So please feel free to type your questions into the chat or you can also use the Q&A. So we are here to make sure that we get all of your questions answered.
Scott and Sydney certainly know the content that we're gonna be covering tonight. So some of it, we may just wait until we get to that portion of the presentation, but in the interim, as I said, we will be here to answer all of your questions. So, so excited to welcome everyone. Let's get started. So first, I am going to share my screen. Here we go. Okay. So hopefully everyone can see that. All right, and let's get started. So, as I mentioned at the top, my name is Heather O'Leary. I am the Director of Graduate Admission. I have been working in higher education and graduate admissions for just over 20 years, which it still blows my mind to think about that. I love this event because it really has evolved over the course of my career. And really has been drawn from my experience working at large public universities, medium and small sized private universities. I did some higher education consulting for a while, but I've had the opportunity to work with prospective students, admitted students and current graduate students over the course of my 20-year career in higher education. And so the advice that I'm giving you tonight is really drawn from that. I'm really excited to be able to share some of my insider tips and tricks on putting together a strong application. Because I think we have a really special place here at Suffolk. And I'm excited to be able to share what I think is unique about our program and our approach to graduate education. So in terms of the agenda, I'm gonna, you know, again, we're gonna welcome you briefly. We're gonna talk a little bit about why you might wanna consider grad school. I am going to give an overview of our graduate programs, and then I'm gonna spend the bulk of the time actually talking about the application process, really breaking down those various components. What admission committees are thinking about, why we ask you for certain things and how you can pull that all together to put together a strong and hopefully successful application to grad school. Now while we certainly all of steps and tricks can be used, regardless of what graduate programs you are considering applying for, we certainly want Suffolk University to be top of that list.
And to help facilitate that, we are gonna give you a little gift just for attending today. So because you attended, we will be waiving your $50 application fee for fall of 22 or spring of 2023. Now this will be automatic as long as your application is linked to the same email address that you use to register for tonight's event, the system will automatically waive that $50 application fee for you. If for some reason you decide to submit using a different email address, that's fine too. Just work with your graduate admission counselor. Again, we'll go through each of those individuals towards the end of the presentation, and they can work with you to make sure that we credit you that $50 application fee. So let's first get started with a short presentation or I should say a short video. So I'm gonna share a new screen to make this work. And actually I wanna make sure that I'm actually sharing the sound as well. That will make it better. That will make it better.

A successful career can change your life, but a transformative career can change the world around you. If finding answers, making an impact, and pushing your profession forward are important to you, Suffolk University's graduate programs can give you the tool you need to do all that and more. You'll build expertise in your field by practicing it with the influential businesses and institutions that drive Boston, New England and the world. Our unique location in the heart of downtown Boston makes it possible. We've grown along with the city's cultural, economic and civic landscape since our founding. Forging connections that you'll use to open new opportunities for your career and your life. At Suffolk you'll widen your world view in our globally focused courses and travel experiences. But it doesn't end there. You'll gain just as much insight straight from the vibrant and diverse Suffolk community, your professors, alumni, and fellow students. That network along with Suffolk's career building resources are yours to keep wherever you go. Opening doors to new experiences and opportunities throughout your professional life.

From business analytics to public policy,
from healthcare to art and design,
Suffolk University offers graduate programs
in the fields that are shaping tomorrow's world.
Fields that you will help transform.
You're ready for your next step.
And so are we.
Let's get started.

[O'LEYAR] Okay. I love sharing that video.
Not only because again, it showcases
our beautiful city and campus in the heart of Boston,
but those are all our students and alumni
that are represented in the video.
So it really is just a representation of the diversity
that we have at Suffolk University.
So speaking of diversity,
and I'm gonna go back to my presentation.
You also are representing a lot of diversity.
So we are welcoming attendees from 16 different countries.
And from eight states across the United States.
And that is on a Tuesday East Coast time.
It's after work hours,
but we also know we're welcoming people
from all around the globe.
So thank you to those of you who are joining us
very late in the evening,
very early in morning and everything in between.
Your profile of the attendees here tonight
is just a representative of who we are as a community.
We have a lot of diversity from students
from all around the globe,
and I love to see that represented in the different events
that we do.
So let's talk about grad school
and why you might wanna consider grad school.
Now, I'm sure you all have your own personal motivations
for thinking about grad school.
But as I said in my career,
I've had the opportunity to work with such a wide variety
of perspective students.
And there are any common themes that repeat themselves,
whether you are talking about people interested
in one of our business programs,
one of our college of arts and sciences programs,
art and design, psychology, politics, public administration,
you know, business analytics, marketing, you name it.
There's a lot of consistency and why people
are thinking about grad school.
So as you reflect yourself
on why you are interested in grad school,
feel free to also pop those comments into the chat
because we love reading those as well.
I will share just some of the very common themes
that we hear consistently.
First and foremost,
grad school is an investment in yourself, and it is an investment, that time and time again, has proven to pay off regardless of the economy, what's happening in the world. You know, the opportunity to really get more out of your return is, you know, grad school is hard to beat when it comes to that. You don't have to take my word for it. This is actually data from the US Bureau of Labor's statistics. This is the most recent available data based on the earnings of people at varying levels of educational attainment. And I don't throw this up here just to showcase, you know, the salaries and so forth. I also like to point out the fact that regardless of, again, whether you're talking about an economy that is booming or an economy that is struggling. The employment rate for people with higher levels of educational attainment. So with that master's level and above is always greater than those with a bachelor's degree alone, or even less than that. And it makes a lot of sense when you think about it. So when companies, organizations, governments, when they are trying to navigate the good times and the bad times, they wanna make sure that they are bringing in people and retaining people who have the skills, the knowledge, the ability, to help them weather the ups and downs in the economy. And, you know, the data here certainly continues to reinforce that. And this has been a consistent story year after year after year. So as you can see here, this data is from 2020 when we were dealing with the worldwide pandemic. I also have seen data like this back in 2008, when we were dealing with the global financial crisis and here in the United States, the housing market crash. Dealt with it at other points in time during recessions. But you also see that strength during boom times as well. The other reason why a lot of prospective students think about getting a graduate degree is it helps them get noticed. It helps you stand out in a crowd. It helps you whether it is a position that you're looking to move up within your current organization, or if you're looking to change careers or apply in a completely different industry, having a graduate education really does help you stand out. So I myself can just talk about from my own experience. So I decided back in 2004 to pursue my own master's degree,
I was juggling working full-time,
I was going to school part-time,
I was starting and raising my family.
So there were a lot of things going on,
but one of the things that I did not want
to put on the back burner was my career.
And even before I had finished my degree,
my managers recognized the contributions
that I began making because my graduate school education
was helping me think differently.
I was bringing new perspectives into work.
I was applying what I was learning in a different way.
And I was helping to really contribute
to the overall success of our organization.
So as a result, not only did I get promoted
before I'd even finished my graduate degree,
but I was identified as being on the fast track.
And once I had finished my degree,
a new, more senior level position was created for me
to be able to, you know,
really apply and take advantage of that graduate education.
So, again, pursuing a graduate education
helps you get noticed.
Next one, I think really importantly,
it helps you expand your network.
And I can't stress this enough.
Now when people think about the word network or networking,
sometimes they think of those
really awkward networking receptions,
where you're in a big room
and maybe there's some food and drink,
and you're trying to connect with people
that you don't really know and have conversations.
That's not what I'm talking about
when I talk about expanding your network.
When I talk about expanding your network
and not that there's not a place for those kinds of mixers,
but what I talk about is really the ability for you
to work very closely with people
who are also specializing and focusing
in an area that is similar to you.
With faculty who are experts in leaders in their fields,
with alumni who are out in the industries,
out in the workplace,
bringing their connections back to you.
And that network becomes very powerful.
LinkedIn did some research a few years ago.
And it found that 60 to 70% of jobs were actually filled
before they were posted on the company
or organization's website through the individual's network.
And it makes sense.
And actually, you know, we have examples of that
on our own team,
where you get to know someone through working with them,
whether it's through the organizations that they work with or through the education, you identify a need, you see that that person might be a great fit for that. And when a position opens up, you reach out to that candidate and you say, hey, we've got a position open. Maybe you'd like to think about it. So, you know, there's a lot of value in having an incredibly strong network to power your future career growth. Now, this all leads up to the Suffolk graduate experience, and the network that we have. So just some high level numbers. Right now we have nearly 1200 graduate students here studying across a wide variety of disciplines. And as you can see from this data here or this map, nearly every state in the United States represented, 52 countries, 17% of our students coming from outside of the US. And remember, this is during a global pandemic when we were dealing with travel restrictions, lockdowns, difficulties securing visas. Typically we see 20 to 25% of our graduate student population is international. And I expect that fall of 22 will be, you know, certainly back to those pre-COVID numbers based on what we're seeing right now. So a really diverse network, a global one in which you are going to get to be a part of. Now Suffolk University was founded in 1906, and we were founded under the principles of providing access and opportunity. So for over a hundred years, we have been providing students from around the world the opportunity to really grow in their educational pursuits and have access to a wider variety of professional opportunities than they would before. We try to, and I'm gonna talk about this a little bit more later on in the presentation, but we invest in our students just as much as we are asking you to invest in yourself and your graduate degree. And we have over 50 programs from certificates on up through PhD programs. So there's a lot of variety there that we hope is gonna be a good match for what you're hoping to achieve professionally. We also have been recognized for our excellence. So as you can see here this is just, you know, a sampling of some of the recognition that we have received year over year in terms of the quality of our programs, our faculty, our students. And so it ends up being a really enriching experience.
to work with all of these different students, faculty, staff, coming from, you know, really strong academic and professional background. So again, it's gonna be part of that network. So let's talk a little bit more about the Suffolk experience itself. So we are truly experiential at our core, and we want to give you the foundation to understand who you are, where your strengths are, where your areas for improvement are, through that, you know, pillar of self awareness. We then are gonna present these models and concepts to you to help you learn new approaches, to deepen your knowledge in certain areas. And then I think most importantly, we're going to give you a lot of opportunity to practice. Practice, practice, practice. It's how we best learn as human beings, as part of that, you know, brain science. And Suffolk University really delivers on that promise through experiential learning opportunities from the very beginning of when you start your program. Small class sizes where you get personalized attention, faculty who are experts in their field, and very often are also doing outside work, whether they are working in industry or serving as consultants, doing research in the area, bringing all of that perspective into the classroom. And then I think not without, you know, can't be understated the power of the city of Boston and our location truly in art of the city of Boston, which is nicknamed the Hub. And it's nicknamed the Hub for a reason. And it's because of the great ecosystem that we have in a wide variety of areas. Now, I touched on the faculty. Over 90% of our faculty have PhDs or terminal degrees. So again, experts in their fields. But I think even more importantly, they are truly educators at heart. They love teaching. They love working with prospective students, and they're going to get to know you and your unique perspective, worldview, strengths, and weaknesses and be able to tailor that education to you. And as I said before, this ecosystem of Boston really being at the heart of access and opportunity. So whether you are talking about healthcare, financial services, government, higher education, innovation down, you know, the Seaport district, which is really becoming a booming area for startups and innovation. Biotech, you know, so many of the world's problems
21:40 are being solved here in the city of Boston.
21:43 And it is literally steps away,
21:46 or our public of transportation system is called the T
21:49 to couple of T stops away for you to have access
21:52 to the companies and the organizations
21:54 that are changing the world.
21:56 And you get to be part of that,
21:58 which I find to be really, really exciting.
22:01 So really quickly, we're not gonna be having an opportunity
22:04 to go through every single one of these programs.
22:06 But I do wanna just put them up on the screen
22:10 so that you can see some of the breadth of options available
22:14 to you at Suffolk University.
22:17 So our master's degree programs,
22:19 we also have a wide variety of certificate programs.
22:23 And for many of these certificates,
22:25 these actually stack up into master's degrees.
22:28 So if you're just in the process now
22:30 of trying to figure out and navigate where you wanna go
22:33 with your graduate education,
22:34 the certificate might be a great option for you,
22:37 or maybe you already have your master's degree.
22:39 You've been working in the field
22:40 and it's time for you to retool,
22:42 or you're interested in getting
22:43 some of the more cutting-edge knowledge.
22:46 You know, I focused my master's degree is in MBA.
22:50 And I focused in marketing and strategic management.
22:56 So digital marketing, and some of the things
22:58 that we are seeing now and working with now,
23:00 those things weren't even a part of my education.
23:04 So as things continue to move and evolve,
23:07 a certificate might be a great fit for you
23:10 to continue to grow and to learn and develop.
23:16 We also have online program options as well.
23:20 So whether you would like to come to the campus in Boston,
23:23 or you wanna study some of these options online,
23:27 you're going to be taught by the same world class faculty.
23:31 You're going to have the same opportunity
23:33 for that experiential learning in a format
23:36 that's not just about being in a Zoom room
23:38 and listening to faculty members, you know, lecture to you.
23:42 But again, it's really going to be integrated
23:45 and give you some real world opportunities
23:48 to learn the subject material as well.
23:53 So I'll pause here for just a second and Sydney and Scott.
23:59 I know you guys have been managing the chat.
24:01 Is there anything before we get into the application itself
24:06 that I can answer for folks that maybe has come in?
24:13 [CARLSON] <v -I think we.</v
24:14 [FONSECA] Go ahead. <v ->Yeah, go ahead, Scott.</v
24:16 <v ->We both tried to answer at the same time.</v
24:17 [CARLSON] <v ->Yeah. Yeah.</v
24:18 We both, I think we have everything under control.
24:20 I wanted to jump in with a few points that you made
24:23 since I'm finishing my MBA everybody,
24:25 I have like all this wealth of experience.
24:27 Also I talked to my partner into doing our MBA
24:31 and their marketing class just finished
24:33 a consultancy project with Liberty Mutual
24:37 and they got to present actually an hour long presentation.
24:40 They were one of the two final groups.
24:43 So I'm excited to hear about that.
24:45 And I experienced this.
24:47 I did big flash consultancies with PNC Private,
24:52 with a number of other firms in the city.
24:54 And I know Sidney did too.
24:57 So when we talk about experiential learning,
24:59 I also got to go to Spain on a travel seminar
25:01 with two of my faculty members.
25:04 And so it's these type of thing.
25:06 When I used to hear experiential,
25:08 I thought I don't really know what that means,
25:09 but now that I've experienced it,
25:11 I thought, okay, I've actually done these things.
25:14 And I feel comfortable, you know,
25:15 in my workplace with those skills.
25:19 So, and Sydney jump in if I forgot anything,
25:21 or if I did miss a question.
25:24 [FONSECA] <v ->No, no, I think you got it.</v
25:25 The experiential learning piece you definitely covered.
25:32 I also was a part-time student.
25:34 So that timeline take that into consideration.
25:37 One of my clients that we worked with,
25:39 was Biogen in Cambridge,
25:40 which is a really big hub for pharmaceutical companies.
25:44 So for example, Moderna are all over,
25:47 about like a 10 minute public transportation, right away.
25:50 So definitely puts you in front of companies
25:54 at the forefront of a lot of change in Boston,
25:56 which is really exciting.
25:57 And then similar to Scott, I also did a travel seminar
26:00 and mine was to China.
26:01 So also went with MBA students and some faculty,
26:03 which is great.
26:05 Question wise though.
26:06 I think that we are in a good spot.
26:10 [O’LEARY] <v ->Okay, great, excellent.</v
26:12 So let me continue on with the application itself.
26:17 So for most of our programs,
26:19 we review applications in what we call rolling admission.
26:23 And what that means is we are going to review
26:27 your application as soon as it is complete.
26:30 So we're not waiting for all of the applications
26:33 for a specific program to come in at once
26:35 and for you to be reviewed within that context of that pool.
Now we have applicants, even though for fall, we have upcoming deadlines in July and August. We have been accepting applications since last July for our fall enrollment for fall of 22 for rolling admission.

And so I would strongly encourage anyone who's seriously considering starting grad school. First, my one piece of advice is don't wait. I think Scott and Sydney would, you know, echo that theory, not only is there the time value of money, you know, the sooner you get into your degree, the sooner you finish it, the sooner you can start reaping all of those benefits.

But we also think we're always gonna have more time and we don't necessarily have more time. We just find a way to carve out the time needed, you know, Sydney and Scott both were working while going to school. Sydney out in doing consulting and working in for-profit organizations. Scott, while working here in the office. And I can guarantee neither of jobs are 40 hour a week jobs. They're pretty intensive positions that they had, and they were able to make it work and make it work really successfully.

So get those applications in, if you are seriously considering it for fall, we're still accepting applications. Now the other type of program review is through round-based decisions. And why we have round-based decisions are for those programs that we are space-limited. We wanna give all applicants the greatest opportunity to be considered for admission.

So we do have a number of programs that because of the design of the program and credentials and licensure requirements, we need to cap a number of students that can enroll in the program. So those are our PhD programs. One in applied developmental psychology, one in clinical psychology. Our medical dosimetry program, our mental health counseling program. So those specific programs do have deadlines. All of those deadlines for fall have already passed. You will also note that they only have fall starts. Again, the design of those programs is that you only can start those programs once a year. So the next opportunity to apply for any of those programs will be for fall of 23.

The application deadlines will be very similar. We will have that those applications available in July of this year for next fall admission. And, again, I strongly encourage you
if you are considering one of those programs to make sure you submit your application in the earlier deadline for medical dosimetry and mental health and not to miss the deadline for the PhD programs, because late applicants truly are not considered. And you have the greatest opportunity to be admitted to a program when we are initially looking at the pool of applicants. So, next. Let's talk about the application itself and the various components of the application. So, first and foremost, why do we even have an application? Well, we wanna make sure that you are going to be successful academically, professionally, that we are as much of a good fit for you as you are for us. And we gather that information by reviewing your application. So there are several components. First, your academic preparation, the best indicator of your academic success is how well you have performed in the past. So we're going to wanna see any of your undergraduate transcripts. If you did anything after your bachelor's degree, maybe it was a post bachelor certificate. Maybe it was a another graduate program. We need to see transcripts from all of that work. Now for students who have studied outside of the United States, sometimes we get asked the question related to transcript evaluation. We have a team of our admission staff has actually been trained to evaluate transcripts from all around the globe, all different educational systems. The only thing that we need to assess that is a certified English translation. We also can base decisions for all of our applicants, domestic and international based on unofficial transcripts. So getting copies of those transcripts into us for review is great. And then once you are admitted to the program, then we will discuss with you how you get those official transcripts to us so that we can certify that and move you on to matriculation. Next up standardized test scores. And I'm gonna break down standardized test scores a little bit more in just a moment, but that's another component that really helps us assess your academic preparation. And then for our art and design programs, interior architecture, graphic design,
we have portfolios that are required. Also for some of our administration programs, the MBA and the master of healthcare administration. We have a video essay. Also for some of our administration programs, the MBA and the master of healthcare administration. We have a video essay that's a part of the application as well. There are sometimes supporting documents or supporting components that are a part of your application that help us really determine your academic preparation. Next up goals. Now, as I said before, we wanna make sure you're as good a fit for us as we are for you, and your goals, what you to do with your graduate degree, that really helps us assess whether or not we are delivering the type of degree that aligns with what you have told us you wanna do with your career. So that's where your essay is really critically important. This is not just sort of a check the box exercise, where you have to, you know, tell us just about yourself. We really very carefully evaluate what you tell us through that essay, that goal statement. And again, I'll talk a little bit more in just a moment as I break down some of these components. Another area that helps a with that is your letters of recommendation. So recommenders can serve a really valuable purpose, not only to comment upon your candidacy, but also to give you a third party perspective and insight on your candidacy, what your future goals are and how well you've performed up to this point. And then find communication skills. Now, communication skills are critical, verbal and written. It should go without saying, but this is the foundation of how all types of work gets done. So even if you imagine you're going to just be an individual contributor, you still need to get your ideas across in a variety of medium. So how we assess that again, is that goal statement, your essay, which serves as double duty for helping us determine your communication skills, as well as the admission interview. Now, some programs require an interview and they're done by invitation, but for the rest of our programs, they're most often optional. Although we provide opportunities through our instant decision days that are published every month,
that give you an opportunity
to meet with a member of the admissions committee
and conduct that in interview.
And then if everything else is complete
and we don't have any follow up needs from you,
we can give you a decision on the spot.
So that's another great opportunity for you
to get to know us and for us to get to know you.
So let's talk a little bit more about these components.
As I said, standardized tests.
The good news is for most of our graduate programs here
at Suffolk University, we are test optional.
And we have been test optional.
I know that's something that has certainly evolved
very frequently in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.
However, we were test optional even before that occurred.
So for many of our programs,
the GRE or the GMAT is not required.
We do have a cut of exceptions to that.
So our MS in Finance,
our MS in Mental Health Counseling
and our dual degrees with the Law School.
So the MS in Finance waivers are available
and Scott or Sydney are happy to pop into the chat
the link that actually breaks down the requirements
for the GMAT and GRE and how you might qualify for a waiver.
Dual degrees with the Law School,
either the LSAT or the GRE is required.
And then for both our MS in Marketing
and our MS in Business Analytics,
these are strongly quantitative programs.
So we do recommend providing the GMAT or the GRE.
If you do not have a lot of quantitative coursework
in your background.
So maybe you were an English major
and you just took the very basic core math requirement
for your bachelor's degree, but you didn't go beyond that.
You didn't take a statistics class
or anything more high level than that.
Then we would certainly recommend
taking the GMAT or the GRE,
because, again, these are quantitative courses.
We wanna make sure that you have the quantitative ability
to handle the coursework and the best way for us
to be able to assess that in lieu of seeing prior coursework
is to have you submit the GMAT or the GRE.
But for the rest of our programs, again, test optional.
And it truly does not matter.
We do not use it as a factor in scholarships.
It sometimes is used as a follow up again.
If somebody's coming without a lot of quant
in their background, we may follow up
and request some additional information.
But unless you feel like you're taking the GMAT or the GRE
is going to enhance your application,
maybe you had a weaker undergraduate record,
you got off to a rocky start, you were in the wrong major,
you didn't do as well as you would've liked.
Then you might wanna talk
to your graduate admission counselor
about whether or not taking the GRE or the GMAT
would be a good idea for you.
Next up the essay.
Now, I like to consider the application
for graduate school to be a similar type of process
as applying for a job.
And when you think about your essay,
you're really thinking about that cover letter
that you would submit as part of your application
for your dream job.
So it does not have to be long.
Usually to 250 to 500 words is sufficient space
for you to convey the following.
We wanna know a little bit about your background, you know,
what have you done up to this point?
Whether if you are coming straight from undergrad
and you've been focused on your academics
or you've been working for a little bit,
1, 2, 3, 7, 8 years, you've been working professionally,
what you've been doing, what led you to this point?
Why you decided to apply to the graduate degree
that you are currently applying to?
So what is it about that program
that you think is going to give you the skills
and the tools that need for your future career?
And then why Suffolk University?
What is it about our program specifically
that is going to help you achieve your goals?
Now how you answer that last question
is really by getting to know us.
So your graduate admission counselor should be
one of your best friends during the admission process.
They will text you.
They will talk to you on the phone.
They will video chat with you.
They will email with you.
They will encourage you to meet with them.
Take advantage of that opportunity.
Because they work very closely with the faculty,
the program staff, the admission committee members,
they know the ins and outs specifically
of what the program that you're applying to is looking for.
And they can give you the insight
on what will help strengthen your application.
They will also tell you,
and they will be very honest with you,
whether if our program is not a good fit for you.
Scott, I know you have these examples very often.
I'm thinking of like your programs with crime and justice studies or, you know, some of the other programs you work with. Could you maybe give folks an example of a career path that might not be the best fit for what we have to offer?

[CARLSON] Yes, I can.

So often our crime and justice studies is a great example because it's very uniquely positioned in the market because it's centered and focused on restorative justice and community building and that side of the crime and justice fence, if you will, as opposed to more of the law enforcement criminological approach.

If the program is reading your goal statement, and it's all about wanting to go into law enforcement, it's not that that is not going to be a suitable path or might not work, but it's going to be a lot harder for them to make those kind of actions and really give you what you deserve out of the program.

So it would be doing yourself a disservice. And this is the benefit of meeting with me. Meeting with Sydney is finding out about what they are looking for and if it is the right program, because this is part of the journey is figuring out which program is the best fit.

[O’LEARY] Yeah, it's much important to me, or to us to make sure that we are just as good a fit for you as you are for us. Because we don't want anybody to come in and find out that the program is not aligned with what they wanna achieve.

So other tips related to your essay. Once you have drafted it, once you've got your rough draft down, share it with someone that you think will give you honest feedback. But some of who's going to tell you honestly about whether or not you have been able to answer the questions about your background, why you wanna get this degree, how it fits in with your future goals and why you want it at Suffolk University. Again, not that it has necessarily prevented someone from getting in, but every application season we see applications and the faculty on the admissions committee will mention, you know, applicant looks okay, but you know, mentioned a different university in their goal statement.
or doesn't mention Suffolk,
or doesn't seem to have done their research on Suffolk.
And if you are a borderline candidate
and you have gone that far
to not necessarily reflect who we are
and how it aligns with your goals,
than that could actually put, you know,
sort of that negative in your column versus a positive.
So not that people are necessarily denied
for that one reason, that doesn't happen,
but it could certainly be a tipping point
as opposed to someone else who maybe has a similar profile
maybe a weaker undergraduate record, or, you know,
bouncing around a little bit.
But they have very clear goals and a very clear path
And very often the admissions committee will say,
you know, we wanna take a chance,
this person has done their research.
They understand who we are and we think we can help them.
And finally proofread.
No typos, just like, you know,
again, think about like your dream job.
If you wanted to,
my oldest son would love to work
for Elon Musk and at Tesla, right?
If he's gonna be writing a letter to Elon Musk,
he wants to make sure that there are no typos,
that there are no grammatical errors and he is clear,
concise, and really consistent in his message.
So that's the other tip that I have for you.
Next letters of recommendation.
So if we think about that,
that metaphor of you're applying for a job,
just like when you're applying to grad school,
your letters of recommendation really serve
as your reference.
So think about who the right person is
to ask for a recommendation and avoid the wrong person.
So who is the wrong person?
I would avoid subordinates.
So if you are the manager of a team
asking someone who reports to you,
there's a power dynamic there that can discount
the letter of recommendation.
Family members.
Friends who haven't necessarily worked with you.
You know I used to use this example a lot.
So if your next-door neighbor of your parents
is the CEO of a company and very successful,
and you asked that person for a letter of recommendation
because they have a name that is well-known and reputable,
but your only interaction with them
is maybe you mowed their lawn
or helped walk their dog when they were on vacation.
That's not the type of person
to write you a letter of recommendation.
It is much more important to get someone who can talk about
your strengths, why you would be a good fit for grad school,
why you would be a good fit for the career or the industry
that you're interested in.
And a good way to prepare your recommender
is share a copy of that essay that you've drafted,
and you've spent a lot of time on,
talk to them about your goals,
talk to them about what you wanna do.
And if you're currently working,
you may find that also gives you more opportunities
at your current job.
As I said before, before I even finish my degree,
I was getting promoted because of what I was doing.
But once I indicated to my manager
that I was applying to grad school,
his eyes lit up because he was like, oh,
this is somebody who wants to continue to grow
and to stretch themselves,
I can start giving her
different projects, different opportunities.
And you know, managers love that, good managers love that.
Love the opportunity to mentor their team
and really help them grow professionally.
Even if that means, you know,
a few years down the line you'll have outgrown
the current role that you're in.
Hopefully they're in a position
where they can craft something for you.
So prepare your recommenders, give them enough time.
In order for recommenders
to submit the letter of recommendation,
we have an online application.
So you're gonna go in, you're just gonna provide their name,
the relationship and their email address.
And you will be able to track in your applicant portal
when that has been submitted,
you can even send them little reminders.
And if you find that your recommender is not turning it in
or comes to you and says, I'm sorry, I'm just too busy.
I'm not gonna be able to complete this.
You can adjust that and put in someone else
to complete the recommendation instead.
The other thing in terms of recommenders
that I would mention, as I said before,
is make sure you prepare them,
but don't write the letter of recommendation for them.
It doesn't happen very often that we see this,
but you want the recommender
to really be providing that perspective.
Okay.
Next, interviews.
So interviews just like an interview for a job.
You wanna come prepared.
You want to have reviewed the materials
that you have submitted.
You want to come dressed to impress whether that is a virtual interview or a face to face interview.
We do both.
We are fully back and operational and having visitors on campus for both informational, as well as formal admission interviews.
You wanna dress to impress.
You wanna follow up with thank you notes, just like you would for a job.
And again, be prepared not to read your goal statement, but to talk about a lot of those themes and expand on it. As I said, your goal statement should be about 250 to 500 words.
That's only one to two pages that does not give you a lot of room, gives you enough room, but not a lot of room to provide the full context of who you are.
So the interview really gives you a chance to do that. And also come prepared to ask questions as well, because we want it to be a conversation, not just us asking you, but you having the opportunity to learn more about who we are and what you might be able to get out of an educational experience at Suffolk.
So I'm gonna pause there for a second before we get into financing and see if there are any questions on these components.
People can put him in the chat, or Scott or Sydney, is there anything in there that we should be answering?
[CARLSON] Yeah, there's been a few scholarship-related questions.
So I think we answered them already, but I think it's helpful to go over it again and to be in more depth.
And Scott and Sydney, any tips on the application.
You both read applications every single day, any tips or tricks that you would like to share that I didn't already talk about?
[CARLSON] Yes.
I think meeting with us is really helpful and actually you don't even have to meet with us.
We know everyone's busy, but shoot us an email,
ask specific questions about the program.
Really cultivate as much information as you can so that you can frame yourself correctly, I think is a great sort of bottom line.
Yea and Heather, I think everything you covered was what I was gonna say, especially proofreading. That one is a big one for me. So those would be mine. And then if, you know, like Scott mentioned, you have specific questions, always feel free to reach out to us. And we're happy to help.

Okay, so financing your education. Not strictly speaking part of applying to grad school, but it's a consideration and we want to give you some additional context and reassurance. As I said earlier at the top of the presentation, graduate school does pay off and it is worth the investment. And the three of us can certainly comment from our own personal experiences about that investment. However, we understand that it's an investment and the financial implications are real. So all of our applicants are considered for merit-based scholarships. Now that does not mean every applicant will receive a merit-based scholarship. Merit-based scholarship is based on your background, your undergraduate record, if you have work experience, what that looks like, your alignment with the program and your goals. It is a holistic review. There isn't necessarily one GPA that we're looking for. Or as I said before, test scores typically are not factored into merit-based scholarship consideration. So it is something though that, you know, a strong application with all of these components pulled together can and really help move you up into consideration for significant scholarships. Now we at Suffolk University, do not have full funding for any of our masters level programs. So our scholarships range from $3,000 a year up to $20,000 a year. Those higher awards usually are a combination of graduate fellowship, where you are working with a department on campus or a faculty member on campus. In addition to getting a reduction in your tuition. And for some of the grant awards, that is just a reduction off of your tuition. But again, I know we've got a lot of questions this year, specifically about full funding. And we don't offer that at the master's degree level, in order for us to be able to serve the greatest number of students we make the decision to bring the awards, again,
in that 3000 to $20,000 range versus having a smaller number of scholarships available at a higher level. So we're trying to serve a greater pool of students through the scholarships that we're able to award. We do have an exception. So our two PhD programs, these are mentor match programs. Most PhD programs are fully funded. And that is true of our PhD programs in psychology as well. And if you have any questions about that, our colleague Pierce Golden, he works with the PhD students. He's happy to talk to you about what that PhD fund looks like. You could also see here details in terms of, you know, enrollment requirements. So we have part-time and full-time scholarships available, domestic and international students. Everyone is considered using that same holistic process of evaluating your candidacy. Part-time students, you have to be enrolled in a minimum of six credits. Full-time students, a minimum of 12 credits per semester. And we will renew your scholarship every year, as long as you are meeting minimum academic progress. So minimum academic progress means you're still continuing to remain enrolled in those minimum number of credits and you are maintaining a 3.0 graduate GPA. So as long as that criteria is occurring, we will continue to renew your scholarship. It's not something you have to apply for separately. In addition, graduate students are eligible for graduate student loans. So for US citizens and permanent residents, those include federal loans. And in order to access those, you need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. For international students those include, and this is true for domestic students as well, private loans, alternative loan options. All of our graduate students are assigned to graduate financial aid counselor, who will work with you to help explain the scholarships that you maybe have been awarded the loans, what that process may look like for you, depending on your citizenship status and what your options are for payments. We have payment plans that can be worked out through with the university as well. So all of this is to make graduate school as affordable as possible for you. And then there are some other opportunities. So we have a partner scholarship program that is available
to part-time students who are working with one of Suffolk University's partners.
And if that's the case, and you did not qualify for higher merit award at minimum, you would receive a 20% discount.
We also partner with Bright Horizon's EdAssist.
And so for part-time students who are working for companies that are part of the EdAssist network, you receive a 10% discount.
Again, if you did not receive a merit scholarship, that was more than that.
This is also true for the certificate program, certificates don't have merit scholarships available, but the partner scholarship program, EdAssist and the alumni scholarships do apply to our certificates.
And then for Suffolk undergraduate alumni, we have scholarships available ranging from $10,000 a year to 12,500, depending on the program that you've been admitted to.
For full-time students and 3,750 to $4,000 for part-time students, again, depending on the program that you've been admitted to.
For all of these other opportunities, if you qualify for a higher merit award, we will give you the higher merit.
We don't stack the awards, but we wanna give of you the most generous award that you qualify for.
And we work really hard, again, to try to make this possible and affordable for you.
Any questions on financial aid? I know Scott and Sydney, you mentioned that you both answered some questions in the chat.
Is there anything that would be helpful, even for student who are listening to this recording after the fact, and they can't see the chat?
Is there anything I should add on? [CARLSON] Yeah, I would just say this is the confusing and scary part.
And at least I know we understand that. And that's why each student gets assigned a dedicated financial aid counselor at my undergraduate institution figuring out that financing piece was a little bit tough, you know, get round-robin to someone new every time.
But what's really nice here is you have that individualized attention so that you have someone to counsel you through these decisions and plan out your options.
So it's just a matter of raising your hand. I mean, we'll send you messaging all the time, but if you let us be known that you're looking for information in a certain area, in this instance financial aid,
we're here to help and we'll kind you to those resources. [O'LEARY] <v activeClassName="parent"
"Great."/v
Thank you, Scott.
All right. So as promised as Scott and Sydney are here, this is the graduate admission team.
So on our website, Scott or Sydney can pop this into the chat as well.
Not only can you meet the entire team by seeing our various profiles,
but you can also click on links to schedule appointments with the graduate admission counseling team and have a chance to meet one on one.
So as we talked about before,
Scott is the counselor for our applied politics, crime and justice studies, global public policy, mental health counseling, and public administration programs.
And there's Scott's email address.
Sydney is our counselor for the MBA, the executive MBA, healthcare administration and accounting.
Pierce is the counselor for applied developmental psychology, clinical psychology, finance, graphic design, interior architecture, and our management and organizational leadership program.
And then Ben is our counselor for business analytics, communication, our law: life sciences program, marketing, medical dosimetry, and radiation therapy.
Now for any of the candidates interested in the dual degrees with the law school, we actually have a separate law school admission team and all GD candidates their applications do run through the law school if you are a dual degree, we then review them simultaneously for the other component, whether that's the MBA, the MPA crime and justice studies and so forth.
So if you have questions specific about the law school admission process, please feel to reach out to your counselor.
We can get you connected to our counterparts at the law school who can talk to you about that process as well.
And then finally, here's our contact information.
So as I said before, we really want to keep in touch with you, to hear from you and to be a resource for you.
So don't hesitate to also reach out to us, our general grad admission mailbox, follow us on Twitter, follow us on Facebook, give us a call, visit the website.
We have a lot of events.
You will continue to be invited to events, both in person, as well as virtual events.
And I say, take advantage of them, especially once where, you know, you've heard from us, you're gonna connect with your counselor,
but try to take advantage of the events where our faculty, our alumni, current students are present.

So a lot of our programs have faculty drop in sessions.

We are going to have an on-campus event in June with it's another Grad School 101, but where we will have our faculty represented for across all of the programs.

You know, we have a number of program-specific events, whether they be panels, career talks, networking opportunities.

and these are virtual and in person.

So definitely get to know the programs and that will only, not only help you make your decision, but enrich your application.

So at that point, that is the end of our presentation, but Scott, Sidney and I are here to answer any questions that you might have.

So we will continue to answer questions if people have gotten all the information they need, thank you again for attending.

And remember that $50 application fee waiver just for participating tonight.

So we'll be sure to get that updated in your accounts, and if you have any questions, pop them into the chat.

Okay.

I'm not seeing necessarily any other questions at this point.

So again, thank you all for attending and, oh, I just saw somebody say application fee waiver, the application fee waiver is automatic.

So as long as you start your application using the email address that you registered for tonight's event, the system will automatically waive that application fee for you.

It does take about 24 hours after tonight's event for the system to update.

But if you don't see that waiver in your application, just reach out to your graduate admission counselor and he, or she will be happy to make sure that that waiver gets applied.

Okay, I'm gonna stop recording now.