Suffolk University Counselor Appreciation Reception
Friday, November 21, 2025
Follow Up Information from Admission and Financial Aid Panel

Thank you again for joining us for our Counselor Appreciation Reception! We hope the day was informative and valuable, and we truly appreciate your partnership and the work you do to support students. In this document, we've compiled the key information and questions addressed during our Admission and Financial Aid Q&A—along with a few we didn't get to cover live.

If new questions come up, or if there's anything here you'd like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to reach out to the admission counselor who works with you and your students: https://www.suffolk.edu/undergraduate-admission/contact/admission-staff

Q: What are the benefits of Early Action vs Regular Decision?

A: The benefit of applying Early Action is timing—you submit your application early and receive your admission decision early, allowing you to check a major step off your college to-do list. There's equal scholarship advantage to applying Early Action; all applicants are reviewed equally for merit awards. That said, Early Action students often receive their financial aid offers sooner; because aid offers begin rolling out in late January. Early Action applicants are typically among the first to see their full cost and financial aid details, giving them more time to plan, compare options, and make informed decisions.

Q: How do students set up interviews if they would like to add one to their application? And should we encourage students to do them?

A: Students can sign up easily online on our visit page or they can give us a call at 617-573-8460 or email us at admission@suffolk.edu.

While interviews aren't required, we do encourage them for students who feel there's more they want to share. They are a chance for students to expand on parts of their application they feel aren't explained enough and to tell us more about themselves in their own voice.

Q: Is there any AI impact on admissions at Suffolk?

A: We do not use AI tools in the review of a student's application. This aligns with our commitment to a truly holistic process—every application is read by a member of our admission team. We carefully consider each component, including recommendation letters, involvement inside and outside the classroom, and a student's academic performance within the context of their high school.
We also do not use software to scan or evaluate essays or other submitted materials. Instead, we rely on the affirmations and attestations students sign through the Common Application. If we ever have concerns about over-reliance on AI in a student's written work, we will reach out directly for a conversation.

Q: Some of my students struggle to fit two years of a foreign language into their schedules, or they don't take them at all. Will this hurt their chances of being admitted to Suffolk?

A: Not necessarily. We review every student's academic record in the full context of their lived experience and school environment. We understand that some students already speak multiple languages, attend vocational or technical schools with highly structured schedules, or come from high schools where foreign language is not required for graduation. These are just a few examples of why a student may be admitted without completing two years of a language.
When applicable, American Sign Language counts toward our language expectation as well. If we have questions about a student's curriculum or need additional context, we'll reach out directly—our goal is always to understand each student's educational path, not penalize them for circumstances beyond their control.

Q: Will you accept other courses to meet your Algebra 2 math requirement?

A: Unfortunately, no. We are not able to accept other courses to meet this requirement.

Q: What housing options are available at Suffolk, and how many years can students live on campus?

A: Suffolk is proud to offer students the opportunity to live in university-sponsored housing for all four years. We currently have five residence halls—and a brand-new hall opening in fall 2026. Our housing options include a variety of styles to match student preferences, from traditional corridor-style living to suite-style arrangements and spaces with semi-private bathrooms shared by just a few roommates. Our goal is to provide comfortable, community-centered living options for every stage of a student's Suffolk experience.

Q: What is the percentage breakdown of your domestic students of color?

A: Based on Fall 2025 enrollment post-census for all Undergraduate students, removing those where the data is unknown, the total is about 40.76%:

American Indian or Alaska Native	0.07%
Asian	7.87%
Black or African American (Not Hispanic or Latino)	9.91%
Hispanic/Latino	19.56%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.02%
Two or more races	3.33%

Q: What is the breakdown of students within the College of Arts and Sciences and the Sawyer Business School?

A: Based on final data from 2025 post-census, out of 4,327 total undergraduates, 2,725 study within the College of Arts and Sciences and 1,557 within the Sawyer Business School. We also noted having 45 non-

degree students. Beyond the undergraduate level, Suffolk has 704 graduate students and 1,374 law students.

Q: What support systems does Suffolk offer for Students of Color and first-generation students?

A: Suffolk provides extensive, community-centered support for Students of Color and first-generation students. The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion (CSDI) fosters a welcoming and equitable environment by supporting historically marginalized communities, advising cultural and identity-based organizations, and offering mentoring, advocacy, and social-justice education.

The Center for First-Generation & Educational Equity serves first-generation, low-income, underrepresented, and non-traditional students through college-access, transition, and success initiatives—including our federally funded TRIO Programs. First-generation students are also eligible for a renewable $1,000 First-Generation Scholarship, can join Tri-Alpha (the national honor society recognizing first-gen excellence), and have access to **Connect the Dots**, a signature mentorship program that pairs first-generation students with first-generation faculty and staff for personalized support and guidance.

Suffolk also celebrates First-Generation Week each year—a campus-wide recognition of students who are the first in their families to pursue a college degree—and offers numerous cultural affinity groups and student organizations that help students build community and connection.

Q: What is Suffolk's position on a student's rank in their high school class?

A: Suffolk's holistic approach to reviewing applications means class rank is only one small piece of the larger picture. It can offer some context about where a student stands within their particular high school, but it does not weigh heavily in our admission decision.

Q: Are you feeling concerned about international student enrollment for upcoming year? How are you adjusting?

A: Nationwide, international student enrollment has declined by an average of 17% compared to last year. Suffolk also experienced a decrease, primarily driven by a drop in graduate international enrollment—a trend reflected across the country. Higher visa denial rates and broader challenges related to visa acquisition also contributed.

In response, Suffolk launched an online semester option for students at risk of being unable to arrive in person for the fall. We provided tailored virtual support and engagement opportunities to ensure a productive first-semester experience. All participating students have reported positive progress, and we expect each to secure a visa and arrive on campus for Spring 2026.

To further strengthen our international student support, an ad hoc committee was established in mid-Spring 2025. While the International Student Services Office (ISSO) has long provided robust services and programming, this committee expanded our efforts. We created a new landing page offering

guidance on immigration-related matters, increased communication with Suffolk's immigration attorneys to monitor evolving policies, and enhanced access to counseling services for both incoming and current students.

Suffolk has long benefited from a diversified international recruitment strategy, and this moment reinforces why that approach is so important. It will continue to guide how we adapt and strengthen our global enrollment efforts moving forward.

Q: What are the admission requirements for international students, and what support does Suffolk provide once they enroll?

A: International applicants follow the same admission requirements as domestic students, with one key addition: proof of English proficiency. Through our Test Flexible Policy, students may meet this requirement using a wide range of assessments—including Duolingo, TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge, or IB exams. In some cases, students who have spent significant time in an English-language curriculum and are performing well may qualify for a waiver.

International students receive comprehensive support throughout their entire Suffolk journey. Our dedicated International Admission team assists with the application process, provides guidance on visa requirements, and ensures students understand their non-competitive merit scholarship opportunities. After enrolling, students benefit from the full resources of our Division of Student Success, especially the International Student Services Office (ISSO), which offers immigration advising, orientation programming, cultural support, and ongoing guidance to help students thrive academically and personally.

Q: Do you admit students with IEPs or emotional impairments, and what support is available for them on campus?

A: We do. Suffolk's Division of Student Success is a collaborative network designed to support all students, and for those with additional needs, we offer specialized resources. Our Office of Disability Services works with students to put accommodations in place, and our Center for Learning and Academic Success provides academic coaching and tutoring. Our goal is to ensure every student has the tools, guidance, and environment they need to thrive.

Q: What are some of the most popular clubs and activities at Suffolk?

A: With more than 100 clubs and organizations—and 18 performing arts groups—Suffolk offers endless ways for students to get involved. While it's hard to choose favorites, some of our consistently high-interest groups include the Student Government Association, the *Suffolk Journal* student newspaper, and programs offered through the Center for Community Engagement. Students also love our signature leadership programs, which are unique to Suffolk and help them build skills, confidence, and community.

Q: What are the 5 most popular majors?

A: Honestly, Undeclared is the most popular and that is perfectly fine. We have over 70 majors for students to choose from once they are enrolled and we help them do that. However, looking at our enrollment statistics for the entire undergraduate student body, the programs with the highest number of students would be Psychology, Law, Biology, Marketing, and Finance. However, many students decide to double major or add a minor to help diversify their educational experience.

Q: Are there some majors that are more competitive than others?

A: For the vast majority of our majors, students are admitted directly to the university without any additional requirements. We do have a few exceptions. Radiation Therapy and our GIAC Certificate in Cybersecurity require department approval before a student can join the program. Additionally, our Visual Arts programs include a required portfolio review as part of the application, and that component can influence admission decisions.

Q: What's a program that is really special at Suffolk?

A: Our new Suffolk Entrepreneurship and Education Development Collaborative (SEED) provides students across both schools the opportunity to dive into cross-functional consulting work with real businesses. We deliver custom business services through a dynamic collaboration of Suffolk University faculty, alumni professionals, and students working across several disciplines from marketing and advertising to finance, legal, accounting, and funding

Q: What are some recent highlights and new initiatives at Suffolk?

A: Suffolk has continued to expand opportunities that prepare students for meaningful, career-ready pathways. In addition to launching the new SEED program, Suffolk recently established a landmark partnership with the Mass General Hospital Institute of Health Professions (MGH IHP), providing qualified graduates guaranteed access to several advanced programs—including the Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Suffolk has also deepened its footprint in high-demand fields through new partnerships. Students can now pursue an Applied Cybersecurity Certificate through the SANS Technology Institute and participate in LabCentral's BioTech-Ready program in Cambridge.

On the academic side, the Sawyer Business School introduced a new degree in Supply Chain Management, while the College of Arts & Sciences added a Spanish for the Professions minor—each designed to help students align their studies with emerging industries and real-world career needs.

Q: Where are Suffolk's athletic fields and facilities located?

A: Suffolk's athletic facilities are located across Boston, giving our community access to high-quality spaces throughout the city. Most of our primary athletic fields and venues are in East Boston, conveniently located at the Airport stop on the MBTA Blue Line. We also have an on-campus fitness center in the Ridgeway Building, open to all students, faculty, and staff.
Several teams compete and train at additional off-campus sites, such as the New Balance Track in Brighton for Men's and Women's Cross Country, and the Belmont Hill Club for Men's and Women's Tennis. A full list of facilities and locations can be found on our Athletics website.

Q: How generous is Suffolk in awarding credit for AP, IB, dual enrollment, and other advanced coursework?

A: Very generous! At Suffolk, we treat advanced-credit opportunities — including AP, IB, dual enrollment and other college coursework taken before or during high school — as a meaningful way to reward students who challenge themselves with rigorous curricula. Suffolk University awards credit for most advanced placement examinations where a score of 3, 4, or 5 is awarded. All courses taken at a college and university for dual enrollment are considered for transfer credit as long as grade is a C- or above. Generally speaking, transfer credit is considered for courses equivalent to or similar in content to courses offered at Suffolk University.

Suffolk University awards credit for International Baccalaureate examinations. Official Higher Level (HL) exams with a score of 4 or higher are eligible. Official Standard Level (SL) exams with a score of 5 or higher are eligible. To review all the ways we can provide credit, you can visit our website on advanced credits.

Q: Who is eligible for merit scholarships at Suffolk, and what criteria are used to award them?

A: All applicants are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships during the admission review—no separate application and no FAFSA is required. Most admitted students receive a merit scholarship or University Achievement Grant ranging from **$20,000–$27,000** per year.

Merit awards are determined through a holistic evaluation of each application, including a student's academic performance (curriculum strength, GPA, and trends), leadership or work experience, personal essay, recommendation letters, and any additional submitted materials.

These awards are renewable each year as long as students maintain eligibility. The Dean's Scholarship requires a minimum **3.0 cumulative GPA**, while University Achievement Grants and need-based Suffolk scholarships require that students remain in **good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher)**.

Q: Does Suffolk meet the full financial need of Pell-eligible, low-income students?

A: While Suffolk is not a full-need–met institution, we are deeply committed to supporting Pell-eligible and low-income students. The University invests more than **$110 million each year** in institutional

financial aid for undergraduate students, and our Student Financial Services team works closely with all families to create personalized, affordable financing plans. Our goal is to ensure that cost is never a barrier to accessing a Suffolk education, and we partner with students throughout the process to help make it possible.

Q: Does Suffolk offer additional financial aid for low-income students?

A: Suffolk builds a personalized, comprehensive financial aid offer for every student who applies for aid, considering all federal, state, and institutional programs they qualify for. Low-income and Pell-eligible students often receive a combination of grants, scholarships, and need-based aid tailored to their financial circumstances. We strongly encourage students and families to connect with their dedicated financial aid counselor, who can provide individualized guidance throughout the process.

We also urge all eligible students to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as early as possible. Suffolk's school code is **002218**.