Hello, everyone, thank you so much for joining us today. I am talking about the application process to US colleges and universities and specifically focusing on the Common Application. To get to know you, and for you to get to know us,

My name is Aya AL-Namee, I am an assistant director of admissions at Suffolk University, and also the coordinator for access and inclusion. And with me, I have Brian today.

Brian, you wanna introduce yourself?

Yeah. Hi everyone, my name is Brian Denzak. I'm an assistant director of undergraduate admission at Suffolk university. And I'm excited to chat about the Common Application with you all today. To get us thinking about the application process, there are different platforms that you can use to apply to colleges and universities in the US. You can see, we have listed a couple of different types for you. The Coalition Application, I'm sure you have heard that term before. It is a popular platform, a lot of colleges and universities use it. It is user-friendly and we'll kind of talk in details a little bit more about that later. The Coalition Application is newer and the Coalition Application is something that actually is a platform where you can start working around your junior year, where you can include a lot of information about you, just kind of give you a head start on your college search process. So you can kind of create a little cubby where a lot of things about you live, and then you can share that with specific institutions. But the idea behind it is access and centralization of information. And it is actually offered in a lot of different institutions, not as popular as the Common Application, but you might see colleges and universities accepting that as a platform.

The Universal Application, that's also something that you might see and it also can be submitted to different colleges and universities. And I would say another popular type of application that you will see are college specific. So some institutions will have their own application process and a versions of the application that you can use. Some institutions will offer their own and offer the Common Application,
that's what we have at Suffolk.
We have our own version
and we also have the Common Application
for students who are interested in following that platform.
But in terms of the Common Application itself
and what that actually means,
it actually is an organization.
That organization has around 900 institutions,
which is a very large number.
Chances are all of your schools
might be on the Common Application.
And it is also used in a lot of different way,
so your school counselor can interact with your application,
you can interact with your application.
Your other recommenders can interact
with your application as well,
and also the institution where you are sending it to.
So it provides a lot of flexibility.
It's something that a lot of professionals are used to,
but it's also very user-friendly for you as the student.
And you can use it to apply,
you can use it to do some search
about financial aid scholarships,
and also about the different institutions
that you are interested in.
And at this point I will turn it over
to my colleague, Brian.
So when it comes to the Common Application
there are nine different sections.
So the common app overall is definitely very manageable
when you're going through it, because it does take time.
I would not recommend trying to fill it in last minute
to get your applications in.
You definitely wanna be able to go piece by piece
through each different section to make sure
you fill it out all accurately.
So the first, some of that information is just more
biographical, your name, when you were born,
but also kind of what your future plans are,
what you're interested in studying,
what type of degree you're looking into.
It's also gonna ask family information,
so you may wanna check in with your guardian
if you have the ability to do so,
to work with them about pulling out that information
'cause it's gonna ask information about them,
their education background, things like that.
So definitely take your time with that section
and fill it out to the best of your ability.
It's also gonna ask about your academics.
So some students, when they're looking at universities,
will apply early action or early decision,
and sometimes those transcripts don't include
what courses you're taking your senior year, so that would be a good place during that academic section to list out all of the different courses you're taking your senior year so that the counselor who's reading your application has a good sense of what your senior courses are like. There's also a section about extracurricular activities and work experience. So what clubs and organizations you're involved in what are you really passionate about, that's a great opportunity to highlight those passions within the programs and clubs you're in. And also work experience, if you have a part-time job or something outside of the classroom, that's a great opportunity to write about that section. And then there's also that essay. That's a great opportunity to really kind of highlight who you are as a student. So definitely make sure you take the time to write an essay that you have proofread, make sure there aren't any errors in it, and have really kind of highlighted how you would contribute to that college community. That's a great opportunity to do so in that essay. And then you will sign it, there is that signature portion at the very end, so that is very important. It's basically saying that you have filled out all that information accurately and to the best of your ability, that you didn't plagiarize your essay or anything like that. So signature is definitely very important and there is weight behind that. So definitely make sure, when you're going back through before you submit, that you have filled out all the information on the application to the best to your ability. And then just some application or some Common Application tips. Again, I said this earlier, but I do wanna say it again. Give yourself time to complete. As you've just seen, there are nine different sections. It is all completely manageable, but it does take time. You don't wanna try and submit it the very last minute before the deadline, you do wanna kind of go through section by section, make sure you fill it out accurately before moving on to the next section. You don't wanna just try and speed your way through it. It does take time. And then again, confirm that the colleges that you plan to apply to accept and are on the Common App, and use the Common Application. And you can find out, usually from that college or university you're applying,
you can really easily find out if they are on the Common App and you can also search for them through the Common Application again. And definitely, I said this before, but I should say it again definitely proofread, proofread, proofread, proofread. Make sure that everything is accurate, there are no grammar mistakes, especially during that essay. You wanna make sure that you're putting yourself in best form to the counselor who's gonna be reading that application and especially reading that essay. And then also reach out if you need help. Admission counselors are here to help. We wanna help you through the process. We understand that it can be a daunting and sometimes a nerve-racking experience to go through, applying to college and filling out the Common Application, so we're here for a reason, we're here to help, definitely email that counselor, call them, definitely let them know if you need any assistance. And then this is just some contact information, if you would like to get in touch with us. I can confirm that if you are interested in Suffolk university, we are on the Common Application. So you can apply directly to us via the Common Application. But if you have any questions for admissions office, our email is listed here, as well as our phone number. And if you would like to contact our Welcome Center about setting up a tour of our campus or see what opportunities we have to visit or any virtual remote opportunities as well their email and phone is listed. And you also do have an admission counselor specific to where you live and go to school, so you can find out who your admission counselor is directly on our admission staff website. We're all super happy and eager to help you assist you through the college process. So please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. So thank you again for tuning into this today and I hope you have a great rest of your day.