

00:00 Hello, everyone, thank you so much for joining us today.
00:03 I am talking about the application process
00:06 to US colleges and universities and specifically focusing
00:10 on the Common Application.
00:12 To get to know you, and for you to get to know us,
00:15 My name is Aya AL-Namee, I am an assistant director
00:18 of admissions at Suffolk University,
00:20 and also the coordinator for access and inclusion.
00:23 And with me, I have Brian today.
00:25 Brian, you wanna introduce yourself?
00:27 Yeah. Hi everyone, my name is Brian Denzak.
00:29 I'm an assistant director of undergraduate admission
00:32 at Suffolk university.
00:33 And I'm excited to chat about the Common Application
00:36 with you all today.
00:38 To get us thinking about the application process,
00:42 there are different platforms that you can use
00:45 to apply to colleges and universities in the US.
00:48 You can see, we have listed a couple
00:50 of different types for you.
00:52 the Common Application,
00:53 I'm sure you have heard that term before.
00:56 It is a popular platform, a lot of colleges
00:59 and universities use it.
01:01 It is user-friendly and we'll kind of talk in details
01:03 a little bit more about that later.
01:05 The Coalition Application is newer
01:08 and the Coalition Application is something
01:10 that actually is a platform where you can start working
01:14 around your junior year,
01:15 where you can include a lot of information about you,
01:18 some work that you are doing in high school,
01:20 just to kind of give you a head start
01:22 on your college search process.
01:24 So you can kind of create a little cubby
01:27 where a lot of things about you live,
01:29 And then you can share that with specific institutions.
01:32 But the idea behind it is access
01:35 and also centralization of information.
01:38 And it is actually offered
01:40 in a lot of different institutions,
01:42 not as popular as the Common Application,
01:44 but you might see colleges and universities accepting
01:47 that as a platform.
01:48 The Universal Application, that's also something
01:51 that you might see and it also can be submitted
01:55 to different colleges and universities.
01:58 And I would say another popular type
02:01 of application that you will see are college specific.
02:04 So some institutions will have their own application process
02:08 and a versions of the application that you can use.
02:12 Some institutions will offer their own
02:14 and offer the Common Application,

02:15 that's what we have at Suffolk.
02:16 We have our own version
02:18 and we also have the Common Application
02:20 for students who are interested in following that platform.
02:23 But in terms of the Common Application itself
02:27 and what that actually means,
02:30 it actually is an organization.
02:33 That organization has around 900 institutions,
02:37 which is a very large number.
02:38 Chances are all of your schools
02:41 might be on the Common Application.
02:42 And it is also used in a lot of different way,
02:48 so your school counselor can interact with your application,
02:52 you can interact with your application.
02:54 Your other recommenders can interact
02:56 with your application as well,
02:58 and also the institution where you are sending it to.
03:01 So it provides a lot of flexibility.
03:03 It's something that a lot of professionals are used to,
03:05 but it's also very user-friendly for you as the student.
03:09 And you can use it to apply,
03:11 you can use it to do some search
03:13 about financial aid scholarships,
03:15 and also about the different institutions
03:18 that you are interested in.
03:20 And at this point I will turn it over
03:21 to my colleague, Brian.
03:24 So when it comes to the Common Application
03:26 there are nine different sections.
03:28 So the common app overall is definitely very manageable
03:31 but you definitely wanna give yourself time
03:33 when you're going through it, because it does take time.
03:35 I would not recommend trying to fill it in last minute
03:39 to get your applications in.
03:40 You definitely wanna be able to go piece by piece
03:42 through each different section to make sure
03:45 you fill it out all accurately.
03:47 So the first, some of that information is just more
03:50 biographical, your name, when you were born,
03:54 but also kind of what your future plans are,
03:57 what you're interested in studying,
03:59 what type of degree you're looking into.
04:02 It's also gonna ask family information,
04:05 so you may wanna check in with your guardian
04:07 if you have the ability to do so,
04:08 to work with them about pulling out that information
04:11 'cause it's gonna ask information about them,
04:14 their education background, things like that.
04:16 So definitely take your time with that section
04:18 and fill it out to the best of your ability.
04:21 It's also gonna ask about your academics.
04:24 So some students, when they're looking at universities,
04:27 will apply early action or early decision,
04:30 and sometimes those transcripts don't include

04:32 what courses you're taking your senior year,
04:35 so that would be a good place
04:37 during that academic section to list out
04:39 all of the different courses you're taking your senior year
04:42 so that the counselor who's reading your application
04:44 has a good sense of what your senior courses are like.
04:48 There's also a section about extracurricular activities
04:51 and work experience.
04:52 So what clubs and organizations you're involved in
04:54 what are you really passionate about,
04:57 that's a great opportunity to highlight those passions
05:01 within the programs and clubs you're in.
05:03 And also work experience, if you have a part-time job
05:06 or something outside of the classroom,
05:08 that's a great opportunity to write
05:10 about that in that section.
05:12 And then there's also that essay.
05:14 That's a great opportunity to really kind of highlight
05:17 who you are as a student.
05:19 So definitely make sure you take the time to write an essay
05:23 that you have proofread, make sure there aren't
05:27 any errors in it, and have really kind of highlighted
05:31 how you would contribute to that college community.
05:34 That's a great opportunity to do so in that essay.
05:37 And then you will sign it,
05:38 there is that signature portion at the very end,
05:41 so that is very important.
05:43 It's basically saying that you have filled out
05:45 all that information accurately
05:46 and to the best of your ability,
05:48 that you didn't plagiarize your essay or anything like that.
05:51 So signature is definitely very important
05:53 and there is weight behind that.
05:55 So definitely make sure, when you're going back through
05:58 before you submit, that you have filled out
06:00 all the information on the application
06:03 to the best to your ability.
06:06 And then just some application
06:08 or some Common Application tips.
06:10 Again, I said this earlier, but I do wanna say it again.
06:13 Give yourself time to complete.
06:15 As you've just seen, there are nine different sections.
06:18 It is all completely manageable, but it does take time.
06:21 You don't wanna try and submit it the very last minute
06:24 before the deadline, you do wanna kind of go through
06:27 section by section, make sure you fill it out accurately
06:30 before moving on to the next section.
06:33 You don't wanna just try and speed your way through it.
06:36 It does take time.
06:38 And then again, confirm that the colleges
06:40 that you plan to apply to accept and are on the Common App,
06:44 and use the Common Application.
06:46 And you can find out,
06:47 usually from that college or university you're applying,

06:51 you can really easily find out if they are
06:53 on the Common App and you can also search
06:55 for them through the Common Application again.
06:57 And definitely, I said this before,
06:59 but I should say it again
07:01 definitely proofread, proofread, proofread, proofread.
07:04 Make sure that everything is accurate,
07:05 there are no grammar mistakes, especially during that essay.
07:08 You wanna make sure that you're putting yourself
07:11 in best form to the counselor who's gonna be reading
07:14 that application and especially reading that essay.
07:18 And then also reach out if you need help.
07:20 Admission counselors are here to help.
07:22 We wanna help you through the process.
07:24 We understand that it can be a daunting
07:26 and sometimes a nerve-racking experience to go through,
07:30 applying to college and filling out the Common Application,
07:33 so we're here for a reason, we're here to help,
07:34 So definitely email that counselor, call them,
07:38 definitely let them know if you need any assistance.
07:43 And then this is just some contact information,
07:45 if you would like to get in touch with us.
07:47 I can confirm that if you are interested
07:49 in Suffolk university, we are on the Common Application.
07:52 So you can apply directly to us via the Common Application.
07:58 But if you have any questions for admissions office,
08:01 our email is listed here, as well as our phone number.
08:04 And if you would like to contact our Welcome Center
08:06 about setting up a tour of our campus
08:09 or see what opportunities we have to visit
08:11 or any virtual remote opportunities as well
08:15 their email and phone is listed.
08:17 And you also do have an admission counselor
08:20 specific to where you live and go to school,
08:23 So you can find out who your admission counselor is
08:26 directly on our admission staff website.
08:29 We're all super happy and eager to help you
08:31 and assist you through the college process.
08:34 So please don't hesitate to reach out
08:35 if you have any questions.
08:38 So thank you again for tuning into this today
08:41 and I hope you have a great rest of your day.