Hello, everyone.
Thank you for clicking on this workshop.
We're gonna be talking about Success in the College Search and Application Process.
but to start off, I am gonna do some quick introductions.
My name is Brian Denzak and I'm an assistant director of undergraduate admission here at Suffolk University.
And now I'm gonna pass it off to Aya to introduce herself.
Hi everybody, my name is Aya AL-Namee.
I'm also an assistant director of admissions and the coordinator for Access and Inclusion at Suffolk.
To start off, one of the really kind of important parts of the college search process that you might be interested in applying to is research.
You wanna make sure that you are gathering as much research as possible through several different means.
Whether that's visiting the college, whether you're on your, their website, whether you are talking with a representative who has visited your school or you're at a college fair, you wanna make sure that you're gathering as much research as possible and taking as many notes as possible.
And you also wanna make sure that you organize that research in a way that makes sense to you and is helpful to you during this process.
And there are definitely several different ways that you can make sure that you're making the most of your research.
'Cause also we do know that it can be a really intimidating process when you are kind of first learning about colleges.
So we wanna help provide you with some tips to kind of make it a little less stressful, a little less intimidating when you are asking all of those questions and trying to write as much down as possible when you're learning more about the college that you're interested in.
One way, one helpful tip is to record any notes on Microsoft Word or through Excel documents.
If you wanna make like a chart with questions that you ask and do it that way, if you like to hand write your notes, that's awesome as well.
But one helpful tool would be to go and type up your notes after you've done that initial handwritten of those notes.
whether it's you went on a college tour and you wrote a bunch of notes or you met with a college representative
02:07 at your high school,
02:09 it might be helpful to go through
02:11 and just type those notes up to make sure
02:13 that you really processed what you learned.
02:15 'Cause it can be a lot of information
02:16 when you're kind of going through an info session
02:18 or you're on a tour.
02:19 It's a lot of information that's kind of thrown at you fast.
02:22 So being able to kind of go through,
02:24 process all that you've learned
02:26 and all that new knowledge
02:27 about that school is definitely really helpful.
02:30 And then to be able to organize that in an electronic form
02:33 through maybe at Google Drive if you have,
02:37 if you wanna create a Google Drive to keep all your notes
02:40 and documents organized, if you use Excel
02:42 because you wanna make charts and graphs to kind of help you
02:46 with that process, there's so many different
02:50 technology tools out there to kind of assist you
02:52 and help you with that process.
02:54 But I did reference a chart before
02:56 and this is just kind of something you could create.
02:58 If you are someone who's very visual like myself,
03:01 I do like to have some sort
03:03 of visual component when I'm making notes
03:05 that kind of help me keep me organized.
03:08 So if you wanted to do something in Excel like this
03:10 and make a chart
03:11 and go through the different information that you learned.
03:14 So for this, we just have the college name and location.
03:17 What is the setting and size of that university?
03:20 What's the cost per year?
03:21 What does tuition look like?
03:22 What are fee, different fees, books, room and board like,
03:27 admissions-related things.
03:28 What's the average GPA?
03:30 If the school requires test scores,
03:32 what's their average SAT score?
03:35 How selective are they?
03:37 What are the pros based
03:38 on what you're looking for in a university?
03:41 What are the cons based
03:42 on what you're looking for for your particular university
03:45 and is this school a good fit for you?
03:47 Do you see yourself there being a happy
03:50 and successful student?
03:51 All those, all that is information
03:53 that you can take note of when you're visiting a college,
03:57 when you're meeting with a college representative,
03:59 when you're doing your research online,
04:01 these are all the, just some of the questions
04:04 that you can ask yourself through this process.
04:07 So then when it comes to kind of asking the right questions
04:10 I know this thing kind of seemed
like a no duh type of thing.
Like what questions should you ask?
But it definitely,
I do recommend just taking the time to really think
about what you wanna ask the different people
from the school community that you encounter.
And it's always a good idea to think of questions in advance
and going prepared,
especially if you're going into a college tour
or you're going to visit the college
and you're attending an info session
or you're meeting with a current student
maybe you're doing a mock class or something like that.
Have questions prepared ahead of time.
So to start off some questions
for tour guides or current students
at that university could be things like,
why did you choose this college?
Get their perspective
what made them interested initially
and why they ultimately chose that college?
What is it like to transition from high school to college?
That can be a big transition for some students.
So hear about from a current student
what their experience with that transition was like.
What would you have changed
about your college search process?
What do you do for free time and on the weekends?
What is transportation like?
If you don't have a car,
what is your first year living experience like?
How do you get involved on campus
and what are things you are involved in?
How accessible your professors are
for extra help and questions.
So these are all really great questions
for understanding that student experience
when it comes to academics, time in the classroom,
time outside of the classroom, experiencing college
at the university, these are all different
really great questions to ask a current student
or a tour guide when you're on tour
or you're meeting with them, whether it's on campus
or during a mock class or something like that.
So next I'm gonna turn it over to Aya
and she's gonna talk more about questions
that you would ask an admissions representative.
Right, so just like Brian mentioned,
whether this be virtual or in-person, or just via email,
I think when working with an admissions representative,
the most important thing to know
is that they're there to help you.
That's really the main reason why they're working with you.
They're available to you,
obviously that varies per institution
to the level of involvement that they can work with.
But majority of them are there to make sure
that you understand the application process
and also are giving them all the materials needed
in terms of what is required of you as an applicant
but also help you understand what it is
that you need to do to stand out
and also present yourself in the best way possible.
So asking them questions, first of all
there is no such thing as a silly question,
you can ask all types of questions
that you think will help you understand the process better
but also good questions to ask are around,
what are some of the requirements for the admission process?
How do they review applications?
Is it holistic?
Is it not holistic?
Are there any specific guidelines
in terms of the review, deadlines as well?
That's something that's very important.
You know, that's part of really being successful
and being organized is understanding deadlines
and the admissions professionals really can help you
with that aspect as well,
applying early versus applying regular.
That's a very important question
because there are a lot of variations in that
within each institution.
And also if there are any special programs
and what are the requirements for those special programs?
A very common one is an honors college or an honors program.
If you're interested in that,
the admissions professionals can also help you
in the application process
and submitting the right material.
Asking how can I make my application stand out
is actually a very good question.
You know, the admissions professionals read hundreds
and thousands of applications every reading season
and they can tell you exactly the do's and don'ts.
So asking that within the context
of the schools you're interested in
is something that will help you for sure
in the application process
Asking you about support services,
very, very important.
Obviously college is not just class, you're living there.
This is going to be your life for four years.
So asking clarifying questions in terms of support services
whether it be social and academic is very important
and also financial aid and scholarships.
So admissions professionals are focused
on the application process,
but they can also connect you with the office of financial aid and also financial aid counselors to make sure that you understand all of your options when you are considering an institution.

The next advice for you are kind of hinted at throughout the presentation is, do not be shy. This is, you know, an exciting time. It's difficult, it's stressful but it also should be something exciting. And you should be yourself, introduce yourself, do not be afraid to talk about yourself within the context of the class, outside of the class, within family, anything that will kind of help you in the application process but definitely not being shy can also benefit you. It's part of demonstrated interest, showing an institution that you're interested in them and also showing them that you're thoughtful and considerate in terms of what you're interested in and what they can offer to you.

And the final advice that we will leave you with is definitely, definitely keep yourself organized. I'm sure a lot of you are considering a large number of schools. I think large is anything more than five. That's a big number of schools. So staying organized, making sure that you have a professional email address that you can use that centralizes all of your search processes into one place with an appropriate name, you know, keeping a professional and also making sure that you are staying on top of your communication. All the schools you apply to will send you an application status tracking link, make sure you track your status, you're providing your senior grades on time. All of those pieces matter. And as, if you become aware of them and you're tracking them and staying organized, you'll definitely be successful in the search process. This is just (indistinct) of the iceberg in terms of how you can be successful and how we can help you in your application process and specifically to Suffolk.

So we've included the contact information to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. That's our general line.
If you have any general questions, we can help you that way. If you're hoping to visit our campus and schedule a tour, you can contact the Visitor Center. And if you're looking for your specific admissions, a professional admissions counselor at Suffolk that you can find that information under the staff page on our website. So you can reach out to your own specific admissions counselor. And with that, I want to thank you for joining us and wish you the best of luck with your college search process.