

00:00 Hello, everyone.  
00:01 Thank you for clicking on this workshop.  
00:04 We're gonna be talking about Success  
00:05 in the College Search and Application Process.  
00:08 but to start off, I am gonna do some quick introductions.  
00:12 My name is Brian Denzak  
00:13 and I'm an assistant director of undergraduate admission  
00:17 here at Suffolk University.  
00:18 And now I'm gonna pass it off to Aya to introduce herself.  
00:21 Hi everybody, my name is Aya AL-Namee.  
00:24 I'm also an assistant director of admissions  
00:26 and the coordinator for Access and Inclusion at Suffolk.  
00:31 To start off, one of the really kind of important parts  
00:35 of the college search process  
00:36 when you're looking at colleges  
00:37 that you might be interested in applying to is research.  
00:41 You wanna make sure that you are gathering as much research  
00:44 as possible through several different means.  
00:47 Whether that's visiting the college,  
00:49 whether you're on your, their website,  
00:51 whether you are talking  
00:53 with a representative who has visited your school  
00:55 or you're at a college fair, you wanna make sure  
00:57 that you're gathering as much research as possible  
01:01 and taking as many notes as possible.  
01:03 And you also wanna make sure  
01:04 that you organize that research  
01:06 in a way that makes sense to you  
01:07 and is helpful to you during this process.  
01:11 And there are definitely several different ways  
01:13 that you can make sure  
01:14 that you're making the most of your research.  
01:17 'Cause also we do know  
01:19 that it can be a really intimidating process  
01:21 when you are kind of first learning about colleges.  
01:24 So we wanna help provide you with some tips  
01:27 to kind of make it a little less stressful,  
01:29 a little less intimidating  
01:31 when you are asking all of those questions  
01:33 and trying to write as much down as possible  
01:35 when you're learning more about the college  
01:37 that you're interested in.  
01:39 So one way, one helpful tip is to record any notes  
01:43 on Microsoft Word or through Excel documents.  
01:46 If you wanna make like a chart with questions that you ask  
01:49 and do it that way, if you like to hand write your notes,  
01:53 that's awesome as well.  
01:54 But one helpful tool would be to go  
01:57 and type up your notes  
01:58 after you've done that initial handwritten of those notes  
02:02 whether it's you went on a college tour  
02:04 and you wrote a bunch of notes  
02:05 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

04:12 like a no duh type of thing.  
04:14 Like what questions should you ask?  
04:16 But it definitely,  
04:17 I do recommend just taking the time to really think  
04:20 about what you wanna ask the different people  
04:23 from the school community that you encounter.  
04:25 And it's always a good idea to think of questions in advance  
04:29 and going prepared,  
04:30 especially if you're going into a college tour  
04:33 or you're going to visit the college  
04:35 and you're attending an info session  
04:37 or you're meeting with a current student  
04:39 maybe you're doing a mock class or something like that.  
04:41 Have questions prepared ahead of time.  
04:44 So to start off some questions  
04:46 for tour guides or current students  
04:49 at that university could be things like,  
04:51 why did you choose this college?  
04:53 Get their perspective  
04:55 what made them interested initially  
04:57 and why they ultimately chose that college?  
04:59 What is it like to transition from high school to college?  
05:02 That can be a big transition for some students.  
05:05 So hear about from a current student  
05:07 what their experience with that transition was like.  
05:11 What would you have changed  
05:12 about your college search process?  
05:15 What do you do for free time and on the weekends?  
05:18 What is transportation like?  
05:19 If you don't have a car,  
05:21 what is your first year living experience like?  
05:23 How do you get involved on campus  
05:25 and what are things you are involved in?  
05:27 How accessible your professors are  
05:29 for extra help and questions.  
05:30 So these are all really great questions  
05:32 for understanding that student experience  
05:35 when it comes to academics, time in the classroom,  
05:39 time outside of the classroom, experiencing college  
05:42 at the university, these are all different  
05:45 really great questions to ask a current student  
05:49 or a tour guide when you're on tour  
05:51 or you're meeting with them, whether it's on campus  
05:53 or during a mock class or something like that.  
05:56 So next I'm gonna turn it over to Aya  
05:57 and she's gonna talk more about questions  
05:59 that you would ask an admissions representative.  
06:03 Right, so just like Brian mentioned,  
06:05 whether this be virtual or in-person, or just via email,  
06:09 I think when working with an admissions representative,  
06:13 the most important thing to know  
06:14 is that they're there to help you.  
06:16 That's really the main reason why they're working with you.  
06:19 They're available to you,

06:22 obviously that varies per institution  
06:24 to the level of involvement that they can work with.  
06:26 But majority of them are there to make sure  
06:28 that you understand the application process  
06:30 and also are giving them all the materials needed  
06:33 in terms of what is required of you as an applicant  
06:37 but also help you understand what it is  
06:39 that you need to do to stand out  
06:41 and also present yourself in the best way possible.  
06:44 So asking them questions, first of all  
06:46 there is no such thing as a silly question,  
06:48 you can ask all types of questions  
06:50 that you think will help you understand the process better  
06:55 but also good questions to ask are around,  
06:58 what are some of the requirements for the admission process?  
07:01 How do they review applications?  
07:03 Is it holistic?  
07:04 Is it not holistic?  
07:05 Are there any specific guidelines  
07:08 in terms of the review, deadlines as well?  
07:11 That's something that's very important.  
07:13 You know, that's part of really being successful  
07:15 and being organized is understanding deadlines  
07:17 and the admissions professionals really can help you  
07:20 with that aspect as well,  
07:22 applying early versus applying regular.  
07:25 That's a very important question  
07:26 because there are a lot of variations in that  
07:28 within each institution.  
07:30 And also if there are any special programs  
07:33 and what are the requirements for those special programs?  
07:37 A very common one is an honors college or an honors program.  
07:40 If you're interested in that,  
07:41 the admissions professionals can also help you  
07:43 in the application process  
07:45 and submitting the right material.  
07:48 Asking how can I make my application stand out  
07:51 is actually a very good question.  
07:52 You know, the admissions professionals read hundreds  
07:55 and thousands of applications every reading season  
07:58 and they can tell you exactly the do's and don'ts.  
08:00 So asking that within the context  
08:02 of the schools you're interested in  
08:04 is something that will help you for sure  
08:06 in the application process  
08:08 Asking you about support services,  
08:10 very, very important.  
08:11 Obviously college is not just class, you're living there.  
08:15 This is going to be your life for four years.  
08:17 So asking clarifying questions in terms of support services  
08:21 whether it be social and academic is very important  
08:24 and also financial aid and scholarships.  
08:26 So admissions professionals are focused  
08:29 on the application process,

08:30 but they can also connect you  
08:31 with the office of financial aid  
08:33 and also financial aid counselors  
08:35 to make sure that you understand all of your options  
08:37 when you are considering an institution.  
08:41 The next advice for you are kind of hinted  
08:43 at that throughout the presentation is, do not be shy.  
08:46 This is, you know, an exciting time.  
08:49 It's difficult, it's stressful  
08:50 but it also should be something exciting.  
08:52 And you should be yourself,  
08:55 introduce yourself, do not be afraid to talk  
08:57 about yourself within the context of the class,  
09:01 outside of the class, within family,  
09:03 anything that will kind of help you  
09:04 in the application process  
09:06 but definitely not being shy can also benefit you.  
09:09 It's part of demonstrated interest, showing an institution  
09:12 that you're interested in them  
09:14 and also showing them  
09:14 that you're thoughtful  
09:16 and considerate in terms of what you're interested in  
09:19 and what they can offer to you.  
09:21 And the final advice that we will leave you with  
09:24 is definitely, definitely keep yourself organized.  
09:27 I'm sure a lot of you are considering  
09:31 a large number of schools.  
09:32 I think large is anything more than five.  
09:34 That's a big number of schools.  
09:36 So staying organized, making sure  
09:37 that you have a professional email address  
09:40 that you can use that centralizes all  
09:43 of your search processes into one place  
09:46 with an appropriate name, you know,  
09:48 keeping a professional  
09:50 and also making sure  
09:51 that you are staying on top of your communication.  
09:54 All the schools you apply to will send you  
09:56 an application status tracking link,  
09:58 make sure you track your status,  
10:00 you're providing your senior grades on time.  
10:03 All of those pieces matter.  
10:05 And as, if you become aware of them  
10:07 and you're tracking them  
10:08 and staying organized,  
10:10 you'll definitely be successful in the search process.  
10:13 This is just (indistinct) of the iceberg  
10:15 in terms of how you can be successful  
10:17 and how we can help you  
10:18 in your application process  
10:20 and specifically to Suffolk.  
10:22 So we've included the contact information  
10:24 to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.  
10:26 That's our general line.

10:28 If you have any general questions, we can help you that way.  
10:30 If you're hoping to visit our campus  
10:32 and schedule a tour, you can contact the Visitor Center.  
10:37 And if you're looking for your specific admissions,  
10:40 a professional admissions counselor at Suffolk  
10:42 that you can find that information  
10:44 under the staff page on our website.  
10:47 So you can reach out  
10:48 to your own specific admissions counselor.  
10:50 And with that, I want to thank you for joining us  
10:53 and wish you the best of luck  
10:55 with your college search process.