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Hello, and welcome to our quick overview about financial aid here at Suffolk University. My name is Michelle LaBonte. I am one of several undergraduate financial aid counselors here at Suffolk, and we are excited to help you through this process. So, first and foremost, how do you apply for financial aid here at Suffolk? All you need to do is the FAFSA.

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Now, if you are new to the FAFSA, that is an acronym which stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and this form, yes, it is free, it is available online at www.fafsa.gov, and that website is listed right on the screen for you. This is the only form we require here at Suffolk.

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We will use this form to consider you for all available financial aid programs. And in order to send us your FAFSA, you do need to know our school code, which is listed on the screen there, 002218. I want to also mention on our Suffolk website, you will find a couple different calculators to help you estimate how much financial aid you may qualify for.

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We have a net price calculator, as well as a merit scholarship calculator. These may not give you an exact number, but they can certainly help give you an idea of the type of financial aid that you may qualify for. Very important here at Suffolk, every student has their own assigned financial aid counselor.

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Go to our website, which is right on the screen there, suffolk.edu/finaid, and you'll see on that yellow ribbon, you'll see the words your counselor. Click right there, and you will see alphabetically where you fall. So we make sure that every student has a dedicated financial aid counselor.

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We provide you their phone number, email address, and this is a great resource for you to use. We really hope you take advantage and we're here to help you. Like I said, we will send out an award letter. This is an online award letter that is emailed to students soon after you are accepted into the university. This award letter contains a lot of information. It's also interactive.

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It has a lot of clicks and links and things that bring you to sections of our website for more information, so I think you'll find that very helpful in determining your overall costs and what your options are here at Suffolk.

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We do have priority financial aid deadlines. So based on your start term, if you're starting in the fall semester as a freshman, you want to make sure your FAFSA is done by March 1st. If you're a transfer student, you have all the way up until June 1st. And then for our spring start students, you want to make sure your FAFSA is done by December 1st. Certainly you can do the form earlier.

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It is available as of October 1st every year, but the very latest you want to get it done is that March 1st deadline for freshmen or June 1st for our fall transfers. We use what we call a two part awarding process. So we'll break this down for you in your online award letter, but just to give you a quick overview, you will be automatically considered for all merit scholarships that we offer here

at Suffolk.

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You can see some of them listed up on the screen there, the Dean's Scholarship, Achievement Grant, our First Generation Scholarship. And again, we'll consider you automatically for these awards. In addition, to apply for need-based aid, we just need that FAFSA form. So you can see just by what's on the screen, there are a plethora of financial aid programs. We will check your eligibility for all institutional programs, federal programs, and state programs, all using your FAFSA. So very important to get that in.

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And once that FAFSA is done, we really take it from there. You know, we do all that hard work of making sure that you've applied for everything that you may qualify for from each of those different programs, that you're being considered for all institutional scholarships. And it's a good idea to complete the FAFSA at the same time you do your admissions application.

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Again, it opens after October 1st, and you do want to make sure on your admissions application that you've included the student social security number. We do need this in order to access your FAFSA. In addition, if you are a dependent student, you'll need to provide both student and parent electronic signatures. FAFSA cannot be processed without a signature from both the student and at least one parent.

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If we need any additional information to accurately determine your eligibility, we will email you. So whatever email you list on your admissions form, make sure you check that regularly for additional information. And my last two tips, first of all, if you have extenuating circumstances, if your financial situation has changed, please, please reach out to us.

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We do want to try and help. There are some additional steps we can take in regard to the FAFSA and your eligibility to see if you qualify for additional funds. Speaking of additional funds, outside scholarships. This one I cannot stress enough. There are so many outside scholarships available out there just waiting to be awarded, and now make sure that you are applying for them, that you're taking a little bit of time each week to submit applications for outside scholarships.

06:18

Those can really help bring down your costs. Now, that was my very quick overview. I hope that was helpful and not too much information. Again on the screen, you'll see our contact information and I do please encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, you just want to check on the status, whatever it may be. Go to that my counselor tab on our website and reach out, and we're here to help you.

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So again, my name's Michelle LaBonte. I thank you so much for taking the time to listen to this information, and again, please reach out to us if you need additional assistance. We are here and happy to help. Thank you so much.