



Virtual College Tour - Guide

Introduction

When in-person college visits are not an option, virtual campus tours can provide students exposure to a college from the comfort of their home or classroom. As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, many colleges have recently revamped their virtual tour offerings, making a virtual tour an even better option. Educators, mentors, and families can use this guide to help them facilitate a virtual tour of many types of college campuses.

Materials

- a chromebook/laptop/tablet for each child
- Strong internet connection (many virtual tours have features that will not load without strong internet)
- Speakers to amplify the audio associated with the tour (optional)

Instructions

- Before giving a virtual tour, visit the college's website. Before the start of the official tour, give an introduction to the school. In the introduction, include information on location, enrollment, popular programs of study, general financial aid information, etc. To find information for this introduction, refer to the website's "facts and figures" or introduction section. Consider sharing your screen with your child so that they can see where the information is housed.
- If there is an area that you would specifically like to focus on in the tour such as residential life, dining options, academic life, etc., use the school website to do additional research before the start of the virtual tour.
- When giving the virtual tour, share your screen with students or play the tour in the classroom. Play one of the virtual tours linked below or find your own. We recommend tours held through the You Visit Virtual Reality Platform, as You Visit allows visitors to see and hear about the campus from the perspective of a current student/tour guide.
- Sample virtual tours in New York State include: (this is not an exhaustive list)
 - [Baruch College](#)
 - [Borough of Manhattan Community College](#)
 - [Bronx Community College](#)
 - [Colgate University](#)
 - [College of Staten Island](#)
 - [Cornell University](#)
 - [John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#)
 - [Lehman College](#)
 - [New York University, Washington Square Campus](#)
 - [Siena College](#)



CORE PRACTICES

PATHWAYS

- [SUNY Cobleskill](#)
 - [SUNY Oneonta](#)
 - [SUNY Plattsburgh](#)
 - [SUNY Potsdam](#)
 - [Syracuse University](#)
 - [York College](#)
- Be sure to save time during or after the tour for questions from students.

Take it from here

- Direct students to the college's website and virtual tour page. Often, the college will post shorter, more specialized tours or videos that students can explore in their free time.
- Suggest that students follow the social media accounts of the colleges that they are interested in to gain a better understanding of college culture.
- Discussion questions for students:
 - What are your initial thoughts on the college that we toured?
 - What did you like or dislike about the school? Was there anything that surprised you?
 - Would you be interested in attending college there?
 - What is one thing you learned about college in general from this tour?
 - What is one thing you will look for the next time you take a tour of a college?
 - What is one question you would like to ask a representative of this college?