



CUNY EXPLORERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Under the Mayor's College Access for All Initiatives, CUNY's Office of K-16 Initiatives has implemented *CUNY Explorers* to ensure that every middle school student is exposed to a college-going culture and has the opportunity to visit a college campus. The driving message is that every student CAN go to college, every student can AFFORD college, and students and their families can take steps NOW to become college ready.

Why CUNY Explorers?

Middle school sets the foundation for success in high school, college, and beyond. By supporting students to develop a college identity at a critical developmental age and providing a campus experience that promotes a college-going mindset, students and families internalize the message that college is a necessary and achievable goal.

Program Model

- CUNY hires and trains college students, called "Visit Guides", to deliver an interactive and meaningful campus experience for the visiting middle school students or "Explorers".
- Students explore the campus through a guided tour, meet college students and campus staff, and participate in a hands-on activity that promotes college readiness or introduces them to an academic area of study.

Past activities have included:

- Examination and dissection of a fetal piglet at Bronx Community College
 - Dental hygiene demonstration and tour of a patient care clinic at City Tech
 - Extraction of DNA from a strawberry at Queensborough Community College
 - Nautical knot-tying and a tour of an engine room with Kingsborough Community College's Maritime Technology program
 - Flight simulation demonstration and a tour of the Robotics Room with the Aviation Institute at York College
- For the 2020-2021 school year, CUNY Explorers is offering remote college experiences that include virtual campus tours and interactive online activities facilitated by Visit Guides. Topics include college majors and careers, STEM, high school choice, high school application process, and college stories and Q&A's with CUNY students.

Program Reach

- In previous years, CUNY Explorers hosted up to 70,000 middle school students at fifteen CUNY campuses for engaging and customized campus visit experiences.
- Schools in District 75, District 79, and those with high numbers of English Language Learners are provided tailored support through partnerships with campus accessibility and resource offices.