Tips for Virtual College Exploration and Research

1. **Create a Starting Point in SCOIR**
   - Use SCOIR’s College Search function to create your college list.
     * Set your personal parameters: Must Have, Nice to Have, and No Thanks
     * Flag colleges you are curious to learn more about to “My Colleges”
   - Organize your colleges in your “My Colleges” page.
     * The “suggested” column may include colleges shared by your college counselor or parents
     * You can mark colleges as “not interested” or move them to “following”
     * Organize your columns in SCOIR (not interested, suggested, following, applying)

2. **Visit the College’s Website**
   - Go beyond the college’s admission page. Look for creative and interactive ways to connect.
     * For example:
       * UPenn offers live info sessions and live student-led virtual tours
       * College University offers virtual tours, interviews, and live interviews with current students
       * John Hopkins University sponsors virtual open house events with sessions on diversity, financial aid, student life, holistic admission and more
       * University of South Carolina has multiple virtual sessions including academic specific programs and on-demand admission representative meetings

3. **Utilize Reputable Online Resources**
   - College Virtual Tours Spreadsheet
     - A database of hundreds of colleges with active links to websites, YouTube channels, YouVisit tours, YOUniversity videos, Campus Reel and more
   - CampusReel.org
     - Virtual tours hosted by current students provide first-hand look at college from a student (not admission) perspective
   - Cannon School College Counseling Blog
     - Subscribe to receive updates on colleges, programs, and admission tips, as well as links to multiple college research and exploration sites
   - SCOIR
     - Multiple resources found within College Search. For example, enter a college name into search and use the tabs at the top of the window to preview:
       * Overview of the college with basics statistics
       * Hall with breakdowns of offerings by departments (residence life, library, athletics)
       * Analysis which helps you to understand your academic fit
       * Sessions which connects you directly with current virtual offerings from the college
     - To learn more tips: Continue Exploring Colleges with Confidence

4. **Attend Virtual College Fairs**
   - National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Virtual College Fairs
     - Over 600 college representatives will be available
     - Create an itinerary prior to the fair and sign up to attend live Zoom sessions
     - Schedule virtual meetings with individual college
     - Open now for student registration
   - Colleges that Change Lives (CTCL) Virtual Days
     - Multiple programs offered on topics from Liberal Arts Colleges to Athletic Recruiting. Explore the CTCL institutions here
   - Strive Virtual College Exploration Virtual Events
     - Such as STEM days and CTCL sessions
   - Cialfo Online University Fair
   - CACHET
     - College Admission Collaborative Highlighting Engineering & Technology has over 40 members

5. **Connect with Cannon School’s College Admission Representatives**
   - Meet directly with College Reps
     - Register on your SCOIR account for Zoom visits at Cannon School
   - Use Cannon School’s Admission Contacts
     - To directly email questions or to set up an individual meeting