The MYTH of the 10-Minute Walk From Washington Square:

How NYU’s Claim Its Facilities Must Be Concentrated in the Village Belies the Experience of Universities Across the Country
The MYTH of the 10-Minute Walk From Washington Square

In advocating for their controversial 20-year Village Expansion Plan, New York University’s administration frequently makes the claim that considering alternatives like the Financial District are impractical, because they must locate their facilities within a 10-15 minute walk of each other around Washington Square.

But this belies the experience of universities across the country, which maintain their facilities spread out over considerably greater distances than a 10-15 minute walk. What follows are a series of maps showing a variety of U.S. college campuses of all sorts – urban, suburban, and rural, large and small, public and private – and the outlines of their campuses as compared to NYU’s Washington Square “core” and surrounding facilities.

As becomes clear, most schools maintain campuses over distances the equivalent of those between Washington Square and the Financial District, and in many cases over considerably greater distances. Further, few if any of these campuses have the wealth of mass transit options that allow travel between Washington Square and a location like the Financial District to take as little as 5 to 10 minutes, and frequently require walking time of much more than 10-15 minutes, as NYU claims is essential.
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. Cornell University

NYU student population: 43,404
Cornell University student population: 21,131

Sources: NYU Website, Cornell University Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. Harvard University

NYU student population: 43,404
Harvard University student population: 20,616

Sources: NYU Website, Harvard University Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. Middlebury College

NYU student population: 43,404
Middlebury College student population: 2,507

Sources: NYU Website, Middlebury College Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. Stanford University

NYU student population: 43,404
Stanford University student population: 19,945

Sources: NYU Website, Stanford University Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

NYU student population: 43,404
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor student population: 42,716

Sources: NYU Website, University of Michigan Website, Google Maps
NYU vs. University of Wisconsin-Madison

NYU student population: 43,404
University of Wisconsin-Madison student population: 42,441

Campus Comparison

Sources: NYU Website, University of Wisconsin-Madison Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison

NYU vs. Williams College

NYU student population: 43,404
Williams College student population: 2,109

Sources: NYU Website, Williams College Website, Google Maps
Campus Comparison
NYU vs. Yale University

NYU student population: 43,404
Yale University student population: 11,875

Sources: NYU Website, Yale University Website, Google Maps