

# Options for College

## Quick Fact Sheet

### **How the Options for College process works**

Options for College's philosophy is to help students become their own advocates in the process of college admissions, empowering them with language, ideas, and constructive techniques that make them readier for college, and much stronger applicants. In general terms, Keith Berman, a Certified Educational Planner, works with students through three phases: *collection*, *selection*, and *application*, helping to gather information, find strong match schools, and help make the most effective application possible. The Full Service lasts at least 10 in-person sessions, and includes unlimited e-mail and phone support directly from the counselor. Typically, the commitment to each family is about 75-100 hours, in the spirit of a comprehensive service that answers all questions, and adheres to the standard of the making students the most self-aware, most college-ready, best possible applicants. As the list of colleges to the right suggests, students feel ready to strive for new challenges at what are often called "reach schools," trying to find a level of achievement and accomplishment that builds on what they have done in high school.

### **References and student ambassadors**

Many families have agreed to serve as references via letters and phone for Options for College, but what is perhaps more interesting is that students who have gone through the process have agreed not only to talk to prospective OFC families, but to act as ambassadors at their respective schools, should a particular student visit and want the perspective of someone who has recently been in their shoes of being a hopeful applicant. Letters of reference and phone numbers of references are available upon request; excerpts from letters are available on the website as testimonials.

At the Initial Consultation, actual student essays are available as examples of what students have accomplished in the past. This, combined with references, gives a complete idea of how OFC students emerge from the counseling as strong, self-aware applicants.

### **Financial aid information**

Options for College students have received unsolicited merit scholarships totaling over \$800,000 over the last two years. Options for College does not provide formal help in the process of finding need-based aid, but has partnered with a financial aid organization which provides web support in order to understand the process of financial aid at a nominal cost.

### **What is a Certified Educational Planner?**

In addition to Mr. Berman's formal education background (Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, M.S.Ed. from Bank Street College of Education, B.A. from Yale University, awards from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Americorps, Harvard University, New York City, and publication of dozens of education-related papers and articles), he has passed the rigorous standards of certification from the American Institute for Certified Educational Planners, which requires five professional recommendations, education and publication requirements, and passing a six-hour exam on knowledge of college admissions and selection. Please look at the information available at [www.aicep.org](http://www.aicep.org) in order to understand the ethical and professional standards of a CEP.

### **Options for College acceptances**

Babson College  
Bard College  
Boston University (including the College of Communication and the Honors College)  
Cambridge University (UK)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Chapman University (including the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts)  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Drexel University (Drexel Scholars program)  
Emerson College  
Franklin and Marshall College  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University  
Ithaca College  
Lehigh University  
London School of Economics  
McGill University  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Pratt Institute  
Princeton University  
Radford College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Roger Williams University  
Stanford University  
Susquehanna University  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University (including the Renée Crown Honors Program)  
University of California – Berkeley  
University of California – Los Angeles  
University of California – San Diego  
University of Connecticut  
University of Massachusetts – Amherst  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of Pennsylvania (including the Huntsman Program and the Jerome Fisher Program)  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Richmond  
University of Southern California  
Wellesley College  
Williams College  
University of Wisconsin  
Yale School of Management  
Yale University