



Options Through Education (OTE) Scholars Transitional Program



BOSTON COLLEGE
Division of Student Affairs

THEA BOWMAN AHANA
AND INTERCULTURAL CENTER

Our Mission and Vision

The mission of the Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center (BAIC) is to support the undergraduate community—with a particular focus on AHANA (people of African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent), multicultural, multiracial, and OTE (Options Through Education) scholars—in navigating college life and fulfilling their potential. We strive to promote a welcoming environment that fosters holistic development. The Center seeks to form students of conscience, excellence, competence, and compassion who will make a difference in the world. Our goal is to retain, care for, and graduate our students by offering programs to facilitate their identity formation, build cultural competency, and create community across areas of difference.

Our vision is to promote equity, build community and support opportunity.



About the Options Through Education Scholars Program

The mission of the Options Through Education Scholars Transitional Program is to prepare a select group of diverse scholars who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in spite of challenging educational, personal, and/or financial circumstances. This program nurtures scholars academic, social, cultural, and spiritual development during their four years at Boston College and beyond.

Our goal is to prepare scholars who are intellectually competent, open to growth, loving, and committed to justice.

The OTE program was established in 1979 and has a proven record of success in the retention and graduation of students at Boston College.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that this information is subject to change as final decisions regarding the program and COVID regulations are still being made.

When does the program begin/end?

Check-in: Sunday, June 19, 2022 | Check-Out: Saturday, August 6, 2022

How are scholars selected for OTE?

The Undergraduate Admission Office and the Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center select a diverse group of scholars based on rigorous criteria of accomplishments, determination, leadership, talents, and potential in spite of challenging educational and financial circumstances.

How much does the program cost?

Courses, campus housing, meals, social events and trips are free. You will need to bring personal spending money for any additional needs during the program (i.e. buying souvenirs during trips, eating off-campus).

What classes will I need to take during the program?

All OTE scholars will be enrolled in English, Math, Interpersonal Communication, Skills for Success Workshop and the BC 101 Seminar in the summer. You will receive 6 college credits for the English and Math course and the English course will be counted towards the Boston College Literature Core requirement! Additionally, students will take a one-credit Student Success Seminar in the fall.

What social events are there?

Each Saturday, all scholars will take trips planned by the staff to various points of interest in the Greater Boston area. In previous years, activities included the Boston Duck tour, a tour of Fenway Park, Martha's Vineyard, the Boston Food Bank, Six Flags New England, bowling, etc. Scholars will also partake in an OTE Gala (formal-attire). Scholars have also organized talent shows, parties, sports tournaments, and more. These trips and activities are important in building community, developing friendships, and gaining exposure to the New England area. (TBD)

What if I have another commitment during the program (e.g. graduation, wedding)?

Prior to accepting your offer to BC, scholars must speak with the Coordinator of the OTE program about any specific circumstances that may require an exemption to missing any part of the program.

Can I work during the program?

No. Due to the rigor of the program and the activities you must participate in, we do not allow any scholars to work during the program.

Frequently Asked Questions continued

Do I need to attend the Boston College First Year Orientation session?

Yes! All OTE scholars should register for Orientation Session II.

Why OTE?

There are many benefits of being in OTE!

- **\$500 enrollment/deposit confirmation fee WAIVED!**
- FREE 7- week college summer transitional program at BC (includes tuition, housing, and meals, social events, trips, and more!)
- On campus housing for **four years**

As an OTE Scholar, you will receive academic, financial and counseling support and build a community of peers, upperclassmen, faculty and staff during your 4 years at Boston College through some of the following programs/services (to name a few):

- Lift As You Climb Peer Mentoring Program
- Mays Mentoring Program
- Monthly meetings with your BAIC advisor
- Semester check-ins with the BAIC director
- Dr. Donald Brown OTE Scholars Book Award (financial assistance for textbooks)
- Sr. Thea Hospitality Closet (access to hygienic/toiletry products)
- Professional Development and Internship Opportunities

Top Majors

- **OTE Scholars:** Economics, Biology, Finance, Political Science, and Applied Psychology
- **AHANA Students:** Biology, Finance, Economics, Political Science, and Communications
- **Non AHANA OTE Students:** Economics, Finance, Biology, Political Science, and Communications

Meet your BAIC Staff



Michael Davidson, S.J.
Director



Andy Petigny
Associate Director



Joana Maynard
Sr. Assistant Director



Danielle Date
Assistant Director



Tiffany Zheng
Assistant Director



Richard Mapeza
Administrative and
Program Specialist

OTE Scholar Insights:

"OTE is the preparation that every incoming college student both needs and, more importantly, deserves. Through OTE, I established a social network consisting of faculty, advisors, and students that have since then served as my support system during my first year at BC. Along the way, I learned how to prioritize my time and the program allowed me to be familiar with many of the online platforms and general procedures that accompany the BC experience. Truly, I highly recommend this program for students that wish to adapt to college life in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding." ~Steven J. Dumeng, MCAS '24

"I am very grateful for the OTE program! I gained more than I could've ever hoped for. Through the OTE Scholars Transitional Program I've been introduced to the structure and style of classes that I will be taking throughout my college career, as well as a plethora of different resources that I will have access to assist in my journey. I've also had the pleasure of receiving first hand advice from upperclassmen, alumni, faculty and staff at BC which I can use as a guide to help me along the way. Most importantly, OTE gave me many opportunities to interact with and build relationships with fellow peers that I can relate to and confide in. Thanks to the OTE program I will be able to start off my college career on the right foot but with a strong foundation as well." - Deyanna Mason, CSON '24

"OTE has been my lifeline when it comes to supporting, encouraging, and uplifting me as I navigate BC. It is great coming into college as a freshman with a team and amazing humans looking out for your best interests as you pursue your academic interest. I am very thankful for the opportunities and resources OTE gave me, such as counseling services, leadership opportunities, financial relief, and many more!"
-Mary-Ann Mufute , LSEHD '22

Contact Us

Boston College
Thea Bowman AHANA Intercultural Center
Maloney Hall 455
21 Campanella Way
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Phone: 617-552-3359
www.bc.edu/baic | ote@bc.edu

