

SPRING OPTION

The Spring Option is ideal for the independent student who wants to take a short break between high school and college, but who also desires to use the time to pursue an individualized and challenging program in consultation with an experienced faculty adviser.

Each year, about 30 students enroll through our Spring Option program. Many of our Spring Option students accomplish amazing things during the Fall semester. Some study abroad. Others volunteer or sign on for socially responsible jobs. Some elect to take classes at a local college.

Here is what they have to say about their experiences:

What most seniors applying to college forget is that there is no right way to get through your education. We are drilled to go to college for the four years directly after high school, to go on to graduate school and find a job. There is so much more along the way. Having that gap between high school and college taught me far more than if I had been on campus for the first semester. —*Lena Dechamps*



Izzy Trifero

I spent the fall in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. I went through a program called Cross Cultural Solutions and worked at a primary school and an orphanage. I taught students basic English and math and really tried to have fun with the kids. I loved being able to put a smile on the children's faces. They really appreciated the time we spent with them and were so eager to learn. —*Izzy Trifero*

I traveled through Europe for several weeks. Afterward, I found my own internship at a marketing department for a nonprofit children's museum. I also ended up reading more than I have ever read before and was amazed at my passion for books of all types. I unknowingly became more

confident, self-aware and passionate about learning after deviating from the linear path society dictates after high school. —*Sarah Layng*

My semester abroad to Florence, Italy, changed my life. The satisfaction of feeling like a full-grown adult in a foreign city is truly indescribable. Because of my semester abroad, I have a heightened sense of maturity and responsibility and a broader wisdom and respect for the world around me. —*Charles McErlean*

Deciding to be a Spring Option student was probably the best decision I ever made. For three weeks I camped around Europe. Seeing so many different countries and cultures was awe-inspiring. In choosing the Spring Option, I allowed myself to not only think, but also to live, outside the box. And I knew that when I arrived back at college in the spring, there would be a group of 30 or so students who shared, if not my experience, then something like it. —*Judith Stapleton*



Judith Stapleton

SPRING OPTION FAQ

Q: How many students enroll via the Spring Option?

A: Approximately 32 each year.

Q: Do students apply specifically to the Spring Option or are they selected from the regular applicant pool?

A: Students may apply for Spring Option admission, but Spring Option students typically are chosen from the same applicant pool as the Fall students and are notified at the same time as all other applicants. The final decision rests with the Office of Admission.

Q: Is being admitted via the Spring Option like being on the wait list?

A: No. Students who are offered the Spring Option are guaranteed admission in the Spring semester. There is no guarantee of admission for wait-listed students.

Q: What if a student is admitted for the spring under one of the Early Decision options? Does a student admitted Early Decision for the spring have to enroll at Franklin & Marshall?

A: No. Students who are offered the Spring Option are not bound by the conditions of the Early Decision program and may choose to explore other college options. Enrollment in the Spring semester is secured when Admission receives an enrollment deposit by the May 1 deadline.

Q: Can a Spring Option student be admitted in September if a slot opens up for the Fall?

A: The Admission committee rarely considers Spring Option students for Fall semester admittance. If they were to do so, they would notify the student in the summer, after the May 1 deposit date. Therefore, if you are admitted to the program, you must make your enrollment decision based on the assumption of Spring enrollment.

Q: What do Spring Option students do during the Fall? Does Franklin & Marshall help them plan what to do?

A: Although the College does not seek to direct a specific course of study for the Fall, it does provide guidance to students admitted via the Spring Option. Spring Option students work closely with an experienced faculty adviser to craft a program of study, work or travel that is meaningful and rewarding. F&M also provides help through the offices of International Programs and Career Services.

Q: What are some of the things Spring Option students do prior to enrolling?

A: The options are numerous. For a full list, go to www.fandm.edu/x20077.

Q: When do Spring Option students graduate?

A: Spring Option students work with their faculty adviser to decide whether they wish to graduate with the students in the Fall class or whether they would prefer to complete college in the usual eight semesters. If you want to get a jump on graduation, F&M will help you catch up with a summer course or obtain credit during the Fall semester from an accredited institution in your area. Some students worry about graduating "late," but students who graduate in December have no trouble finding jobs after college.

Q: Where do Spring Option students live?

A: Spring Option students are sent a roommate preference form before they arrive on campus and are housed in one of the four College Houses. They might room with another Spring Option student in a double, or with a Fall semester first-year student. No matter where they are housed, they will share the common experience of being a member of a College House, with the same opportunity to take a leadership role in the House system.

Q: Do Spring Option students have the same opportunity to join clubs and organizations as their Fall semester counterparts?

A: Yes. Spring Option students arrive on campus at the same time as transfer students and F&M students returning from abroad.

Q: How do Spring Option students get into classes?

A: Spring Option students register for classes during the November prior to their arrival on campus, the same time as all other F&M students.

Q: Can Spring Option students participate in four years of athletics?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there advantages to being a Spring Option student?

A: Yes. Some students thrive during their fall term, pursuing challenges that they did not have time for in high school (creative writing, art, music or language immersion). Spring Option students arrive at F&M together and work closely with the same faculty adviser, creating bonds that last well past the first few weeks of college.

Q: Does Franklin & Marshall do anything special for Spring Option students?

A: Franklin & Marshall College provides services to those interested in the Spring Option through a specially designated adviser who works closely with students to discuss their goals both during the Fall term and their subsequent four years at the College. Students also are assigned student mentors to help them make the transition to college life once they are on campus. Spring Option students receive a comprehensive orientation similar to the one in the Fall.

For more information on our Spring Option, please contact Professor Kabi Hartman at kabi.hartman@fandm.edu.