# Academic Calendar

## Fall Term 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 6</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Labor Day (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 7</td>
<td>Tue.</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah (No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 8</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 22</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last day to ADD courses by 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples’ Day (University Holiday; Classes Held)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last day to DROP Courses without Record of Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last date to make up Incompletes from Spring 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Tue.</td>
<td>Substitute Thursday’s schedule on Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Thu.</td>
<td>Veterans Day (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Spring Registration Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Spring Registration Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Thu.</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>No Classes (University Holiday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Tue.</td>
<td>Last day to WITHDRAW from courses and receive a grade of W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Tue.</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Reading Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 16-Dec. 23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Spring Term 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last day to ADD courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last day to DROP courses without record of enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Thu.</td>
<td>Substitute Monday’s schedule on Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Last day to make up incompletes from Fall 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19-27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Recess (No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Fall 2022 Registration Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Make-up Day (No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Registration Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Patriots’ Day (University Holiday; No Classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Substitute Monday’s Schedule on Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Last day to WITHDRAW from courses and receive a grade of W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6-13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Doctoral Hooding Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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Foreign Language Examinations are given in September, November, January and April.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| ACADEMIC CALENDAR | 2 |
| WELCOME FROM THE DEANS | 4 |
| ACADEMIC POLICIES | 5 |
| Academic Standing | 5 |
| Policy on Academic Standing | 5 |
| Procedures for Academic Standing Review | 5 |
| Appeals | 5 |
| Academic Integrity & Professionalism | 6 |
| Academic Grievances | 6 |
| Policy on Incompletes | 6 |
| Residence Requirements | 6 |
| Time Limitations for Completing Degrees | 6 |
| Extension of Degree Time | 6 |
| Leaves of Absence | 7 |
| Overview of Leaves | 7 |
| Personal Leave | 7 |
| Parental Leave | 7 |
| Parental Accommodation | 7 |
| Medical Leave of Absence | 7 |
| Voluntary Withdrawal | 8 |
| Reinstatement Policy | 8 |
| Transfer of Credit | 8 |
| Foreign Language Examinations | 8 |
| Advisors | 9 |
| Non-Discrimination Statement | 9 |
| REGISTRATION | 10 |
| Continuous Enrollment Policy | 10 |
| Degree-only Status | 10 |
| Enrollment Status | 10 |
| Cross-Registration and Graduate School Consortium | 10 |
| Audits | 10 |
| Dropping a Course | 11 |
| Grades | 11 |
| Changes in Course Grades: Statute of Limitations | 11 |
| Health Service Requirements | 11 |
| EXPENSES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS | 12 |
| Tuition | 12 |
| Continuation Tuition | 12 |
| Health Insurance & Health and Wellness Fee | 12 |
| Student Activity Fee | 13 |
| Union Dues/Agency Fee | 13 |
| Payment Options | 13 |
| INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES | 14 |
| Tuition Scholarships | 14 |
| Teaching Assistantships | 14 |
| Research Assistantships | 14 |
| Fellowships and Merit Awards | 15 |
| Research Support | 15 |
| Graduate Student Travel Funding | 15 |
| Graduate Student Research Competition | 15 |
| FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID | 15 |
| Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan | 15 |
| Federal Work Study | 15 |
| Federal Grad PLUS Loan | 15 |
| How to Apply | 15 |
| Loan Deferments | 16 |
| PhD Student Benefits | 16 |
| PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES | 17 |
| Procedure for Awarding of Degrees | 17 |
| Applying for Graduation | 17 |
| Commencement Information | 17 |
| THESIS/DISSERTATION | 18 |
| Examining Committees | 18 |
| Thesis/Dissertation Defense and Submission | 18 |
| RESOURCES | 19 |
| Student Accessibility Services | 19 |
| Dean of Student Affairs Office | 19 |
| Community Standards | 19 |
| Student Outreach and Support | 19 |
| Office of Equal Opportunity | 19 |
| Discrimination and Harassment | 19 |
| Sexual Misconduct | 20 |
| Consensual Relations with Faculty and Academic Administrators | 20 |
| Accomodations | 20 |
| University Health Service | 20 |
| Counseling and Mental Health Service | 21 |
Dear Graduate School of Arts and Sciences student,

We are pleased to provide you a copy of the 2021–2022 Graduate Student Handbook. The following handbook describes the academic policies and guidelines for study at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). It advises both new and continuing students, both on-campus and virtual, of the policies important for navigating graduate student life at Tufts and thriving in an environment that is welcoming to all.

We recognize this is an extraordinary academic year with regards to the teaching, research and learning environment. Through our concerted efforts, GSAS strives to make the Tufts community safe during our time together. GSAS policies and procedures, many of which are detailed in this handbook, will continue to guide this experience.

Many departments publish their own handbooks for graduate students and it is important and valuable to become familiar with those documents as well. Your best academic resources will be in your department. For those matters we expect that you will often turn to your advisor, mentor, or other faculty members for direction and guidance. Beyond your department, the campus is full of resources available for graduate students. We encourage you to read the Campus Resource Guide for more information about the various offices and centers on campus that are available to support you.

Our collective goal is to support and advocate for GSAS students, and we look forward to hearing from you. We wish you all the best in the coming year no matter how you participate in your courses at Tufts. Be safe and be healthy.

Robert Cook  
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Sarah Herchel  
Associate Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Jacqueline Dejean  
Assistant Dean, Diversity & Inclusion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
Assistant Dean, Arts & Sciences Research
The Academic Policies section of this handbook includes general principles and practices of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. To be informed of specific academic policies of your department or program, consult your departmental or graduate program guidelines.

Academic Standing

POLICY ON ACADEMIC STANDING

All graduate students are expected to remain in good academic standing. In order to remain eligible to continue in a degree, certificate, or post-baccalaureate program and/or to receive various types of financial assistance, including federal aid, a graduate student must maintain good academic standing and be making satisfactory progress toward the degree or certificate. The faculty has adopted the following statements relative to academic standing and degree progress.

Note: Honors standing is not given in the graduate school. The following are the minimum requirements; departments have the right to impose additional criteria for good academic standing.

1. To remain in good academic standing a student may have only one grade lower than B-, or one Unsatisfactory (U), or one Incomplete (I) that remains incomplete for more than one semester.

2. Credit will be awarded only to graduate-level credit-granting courses that receive a grade of B- or better or satisfactory (S).

3. Options for making up a grade less than B- or a U must be discussed and approved by the department.

4. Courses for which a student receives a grade lower than B- may be retaken only once to achieve the credit. The original grade earned remains in the student's record.

5. Incomplete grades must be completed in accordance with the Policy on Incompletes detailed in this handbook on page 6.

6. The completion of all degree requirements, such as comprehensive, qualifying, and language examinations, must take place within the time limits established by the respective departments or programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Deviation from any of the above requirements or the departmental or program requirements constitutes evidence that the student is making inadequate degree progress and is no longer in good academic standing.

PROCEDURES FOR ACADEMIC STANDING REVIEW

The Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences oversees academic standing procedures, reviews cases and makes recommendations to the dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The committee consists of faculty from across academic departments. Their main responsibilities are to review graduate school policy; review academic progress of graduate students; communicate with department graduate directors and deans regarding policy and academic standing; and receive GSAS student petitions for extensions of time to degree and reinstatement after a leave.

A student who is not in good academic standing will be notified of their status by their department, and will be dismissed by the graduate dean unless recommended otherwise by the department and an exception is granted by the Executive Committee. If an exception is granted, the graduate director or chair will meet with the student to develop a plan and a timeline to return to good academic standing. An approved plan and timeline must be sent to the GSAS Executive Committee by the faculty. Only the dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences may dismiss an enrolled graduate student. Students will be kept informed throughout these proceedings.

Among the most common grounds for dismissal from the institution are the following:

- more than one grade not meeting the minimum standards described
- failure(s) to reach a departmental benchmark
- evidence that degree requirements will not be met within stated time limits
- academic dishonesty (more information on the Academic Integrity Policy is below)
- failure to meet professional standards or codes of conduct as expected by each discipline and/or as additionally stated in the department’s graduate student handbook, website, or other department documents.

APPEALS

All students may appeal decisions in writing, within thirty days of receiving notification of dismissal, or upon receiving notice that an extension of time or petition to be reinstated has been denied, to the dean. Please refer to the website for more information regarding the appeals processes.
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Integrity & Professionalism

Students are expected to meet the highest standards of academic integrity and professionalism. Academic misconduct is inimical to academic integrity and violates a core value of Tufts University. Accordingly, faculty and students are prohibited from engaging in academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, inappropriate collaboration, academic dishonesty, research misconduct, and facilitating the academic misconduct of another. Academic misconduct can occur with the intent to deceive or by disregarding proper scholarly procedures.

The Tufts Academic Integrity Resources Website provides a primer on ethical academic work. It also includes a description of computer ethics and the appropriate use of electronic resources. Students should familiarize themselves with the standards outlined in this policy, as well as the many resources available to assist you in your academic growth and learning. Alleged violations of the Academic Misconduct Policy will be considered and addressed within the Student Conduct Resolution Procedure.

Policy on Incompletes

An incomplete may be awarded only if the student has done work in the course, the instructor judges the reasons for granting incomplete status to be valid, and the instructor determines that the work can be completed in the time specified on the Incomplete Form submitted by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to request an incomplete before the due date of the required work and sign the contract with the instructor of the course.

If an incomplete is granted, all work in the course must be completed on or before the date six weeks after the first day of classes in the subsequent semester (fall or spring only; summer terms excluded). If the student has completed the work within the stated time, it will be evaluated without prejudice.

Residence Requirements

For Ph.D. programs, the residency requirement is two semesters of graduate study at Tufts. Tufts will not award the doctoral degree to students whose dissertation research or writing was performed at another institution, unless they were under the direct supervision of a Tufts-based faculty member.

Time Limitations for Completing Degrees

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Ph.D. candidates may take up to seven calendar years to complete all degree requirements.

Extension of Degree Time

A student should consider applying for an extension of time when actively working on program requirements and more time is needed to complete them, but the student is confident that the work will be completed within the time frame of the approved extension. Students should not request an extension of time if substantial progress cannot be made. If an extension is granted, it is expected that students keep on schedule to complete degree requirements. All Extension of Time requests require review and approval by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Executive Committee. The Request for Extension of Time Form and all supporting documentation must be received by the dean’s office by August 1, December 1, or April 15 to be considered for the following semester. Additionally, international students should contact the Tufts International Center with visa extension requests. For international students, the extension of time petition must be submitted at least three months prior to the deadlines listed above.

It should be noted that requests for an extension of time are not automatically approved and are granted only in unusual circumstances. If the extension of time is not approved, the student’s candidacy for the degree is terminated.

All students may appeal decisions in writing, within thirty days of receiving notification of dismissal, or upon receiving notice that an extension of time or petition to be reinstated has been denied, to the dean. Please refer to the website for more information regarding the appeals processes.
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Leaves and Accomodations

OVERVIEW OF LEAVES

There are several types of leaves available to graduate students: personal, parental, and medical. Information about each leave type is detailed below, with additional information on the Student Life website. It is recommended that students who are considering a leave of absence discuss their plan with their academic advisor and/or director of graduate studies. Students who are on leave are not charged tuition and fees and are not eligible for stipends; funding upon return cannot be guaranteed; please speak with your program graduate director if you have questions. In cases where a student has a teaching or research assistant appointment, it is expected the student alert their advisor and program graduate director of the leave. When possible, notification should be given within a reasonable time period prior to the leave so alternate arrangements can be made for the duration of time the student will be on leave.

Student loan borrowers will receive exit interview and repayment information and may be required to begin loan repayment while on leave. Students who are not in good academic standing when taking a leave must have an academic plan intact so upon their return they can continue making academic progress. This plan must be approved by their academic advisor and the respective dean before return. Please see the Policy on Academic Standing on page 5.

Because leaves of absence can impact visa status and eligibility to remain in the United States, international students who are considering taking a leave must contact the International Center before any leave is authorized. Personal leaves of absence directly jeopardize an international student’s ability to remain in the United States.

PERSONAL LEAVE

Graduate students may apply for a personal leave of absence in SIS. Students who have not successfully completed one semester of graduate study are typically not eligible to take a leave of absence. Departments must approve all requests for a personal leave. Personal leaves of absence will not be granted for periods of time of more than one year. If the student’s request for a leave of absence is not approved, the student will be held to the original timetable for degree completion and, if time to degree completion has expired, the student’s candidacy for the degree is terminated.

PARENTAL LEAVE

Graduate students may apply, in SIS, for a parental leave for one semester (fall or spring) for the birth or adoption of a child. The parent must be the primary caregiver of the child during the time of the leave. If granted, parental leave will not be counted toward the student’s time to degree. Students on approved parental leave can purchase the Tufts health insurance during the time of leave, with the understanding they will return from leave the following semester and continue use of Tufts health insurance.

International students must discuss parental leave with the International Center staff to ensure they maintain their immigration status without loss of benefits or violation of status. Parental leaves may be eligible for a medical reduced course load (0-8 credits) per semester for no more than 12 months. In order to qualify for a medical reduced course load you must consult with the International Center prior to requesting a parental leave through SIS.

PARENTAL ACCOMMODATION

There is a 12-week paid parental accommodation for new parents (this accommodation is in addition to the parental leave detailed above). Students interested in the paid parental accommodation should complete the online form at least 90 days in advance of the expected leave. More information can be found here.

MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students may take a medical leave of absence to receive treatment for health concerns. A medical leave of absence is also appropriate if a student finds it difficult to productively or safely manage the demands of their academics and campus life due to their health concerns.

The Student Outreach and Support team, part of the Dean of Student Affairs Office, facilitates medical leave requests, and can help students decide whether a medical leave of absence makes sense for them. Taking a medical leave of absence involves a number of steps and implications; you can learn more on the Medical Leave website. To begin the process of a medical leave, please schedule an appointment with Student Outreach and Support by calling 617-627-3158 or emailing DeanoofStudentAffairs@ase.tufts.edu.
Voluntary Withdrawal

Graduate students may voluntarily withdraw from their degree program at any time. Graduate students are encouraged to meet with their advisor and/or graduate program director before action is taken. As with taking a leave, international students must contact the International Center before withdrawing from a program. A withdrawal can be requested in SIS. Once withdrawn from a program, the student must petition for and be granted reinstatement to the program before being able to register. Please see the reinstatement section of this handbook for further details. Students who withdraw with disciplinary charges pending will have a permanent notation posted on their transcript. This policy is detailed online in the Student Judicial Process.

Reinstatement Policy

If a graduate student has not registered at Tufts for one or more semesters, and later wishes to resume work in the degree program, the student must be reinstated by the graduate school. In order to be reinstated, a student must complete the Petition for Reinstatement form and submit it along with all required supporting documentation to the dean’s office for consideration. A $350 reinstatement fee will be charged to all graduate students who re-enroll in the graduate school.

If a student was in good academic standing when withdrawn and wishes to be reinstated, the reinstatement may be approved by the dean. If a student was not in good academic standing when withdrawn, or was withdrawn due to reaching the time limit for completion of degree, reinstatement requires approval by the GSAS Executive Committee. All reinstatement requests and supporting documentation must be received by the dean’s office by August 1, December 1, or April 15 to be considered for the following semester. International students must contact the International Center prior to requesting reinstatement in order to properly plan any visa needs if approved. For international students, the reinstatement petition must be submitted at least three months prior to the requested reinstatement.

Transfer of Credit

Students may apply for transfer credit for graduate-level courses taken at Tufts or at other institutions.

It is recommended that students apply for transfer credit at the beginning of their graduate program. Transfer of credit is requested and processed in SIS. A maximum of two courses* may be transferred and used to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, subject to the following conditions. Credits transferred must:

- carry a grade of B- or better (courses taken as pass/fail cannot be transferred)
- not have been counted toward another degree**
- have been earned in graduate-level courses at a properly accredited institution
- have been taken within the past five years

These are the minimum requirements for credits transferred. Departments have the right to impose additional criteria.

* Students previously enrolled in a Tufts certificate program may petition to transfer all credits required for the certificate into a Tufts graduate degree program as approved by the department.

** Courses taken in the duration of a degree program are eligible for transfer credit only if a transcript notation or documentation from the institution confirms the course was in excess of degree requirements, and withheld from calculation in overall earned credit hours, GPA, and honors.

Ph.D. candidates may not transfer courses counted toward a master’s degree to their doctoral program. However, individual departments and programs may, at their discretion, accept these courses in order to reduce the number of courses required for the doctoral degree.

No student will be allowed to graduate without formal department and program approval of the credits earned elsewhere. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain approval of the credits from the department or program prior to submitting the application for graduation.

Foreign Language Examinations

Several graduate programs have a foreign language requirement. Consult your department or program on how to satisfy this requirement. This exam is organized through the Dean’s Office. More information can be found here; Foreign Language Requirement or you can contact gsas@tufts.edu directly.

Note: Graduate student tuition does not pay for summer courses taken in order to fulfill a language requirement or to prepare for a language exam. Students do not receive degree credit for such courses.
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Advisors

Graduate students are assigned academic advisors and thesis or dissertation mentors by their departments. There are occasions when it is desirable to the student or the faculty advisor for students to switch to a new advisor or mentor. In this case, the School works with students to place them with a mentor or advisor of interest to the student. If this solution does not result in a satisfactory placement, the School will attempt to identify an alternative appropriate advisor or mentor for the student. Such alternatives are not guaranteed. In the event that the student and School cannot find an appropriate, alternative placement, the student may be placed on administrative leave or discontinued from the program.

These changes are considered to be a standard practice so long as they conform to the policies and procedures of the department. Students may consult with the dean if questions arise about advisor or mentor assignments.

The faculty director of the graduate certificate program in most cases serves as the advisor of enrolled students.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Revised April 2021

Tufts does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender (including pregnancy, sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct including acts of sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and coercion), gender identity and/or expression (including a transgender identity), sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law. Retaliation is also prohibited. Tufts will comply with state and federal laws such as M.G.L. c. 151B, Title IX, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and other similar laws that prohibit discrimination. More detailed Tufts policies and procedures on this topic may be found on the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) website’s policy page. Unlawful discrimination has no place at Tufts University and offends the University’s core values that include a commitment to equal opportunity and inclusion. All Tufts employees, faculty members, students and community members are expected to join with and uphold this commitment. Information regarding support services for individuals who have experience any form of misconduct can be found on the OEO website. Complaints can also be sent to oeo@tufts.edu or reported anonymously online via Ethicspoint, a third-party secure web tool.

Any member of the Tufts University community has the right to raise concerns or make a complaint regarding discrimination under this policy without fear of retaliation. Any and all inquiries regarding the application of this statement and related policies may be referred to: Jill Zellmer, MSW, Executive Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, Title IX and 504 Coordinator, at 617.627.3298 at 196 Boston Avenue, Suite 400B, Medford, MA or at jill.zellmer@tufts.edu. Anonymous complaints may also be made by reporting online (Ethicspoint or oeo@tufts.edu) or by using the hotline at 1.866.384.4277. As set forth in our policies, individuals may also file complaints with administrative agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”). The contact information for the local office of OCR is 617.289.0111 at Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109-3921.
Continuous Enrollment Policy

Graduate students must be enrolled (registered), or on an approved leave of absence, for every academic-year semester between matriculation and graduation. Students should register during the early registration periods in November and April. The university reserves the right to withhold registration for any student having unmet financial or health services obligations. Students who fail to register by the end of the second week of classes will be administratively withdrawn and subject to a $350 reinstatement fee. International students must maintain proper enrollment status per their visa requirements.

Degree-only Status

If a student has registered for all required courses, including dissertation research (297, 298), the student must register for a course designation that indicates that only dissertation-related work, whether part-time or full-time, is being pursued.

Ph.D. candidates must register for course 501-PT (part-time) or 502-FT (full-time) in their department.

Graduate students may declare full-time status of thirty-five hours per week (502) with their advisor’s concurrence.

Enrollment Status

Graduate students are responsible for maintaining enrollment status at Tufts. Federal regulations require students to be enrolled (registered) at least half-time in order to receive and/or defer student loans. Tufts provides information regarding student enrollment status to lenders via the National Student Loan Clearinghouse and is required by law to return funds for students who do not maintain a minimum of half-time enrollment status. Enrollment status is either full-time, half-time, or part-time as defined below:

**Full-time:** Nine (9) or more credits; Six (6) credits and a teaching or research assistantship (must also register for 405-TA or 406-RA) or registration as a full-time continuing student (see “degree-only status” section above).

**Half-time:** Five (5) credits; Two (2) credits plus a teaching or research assistantship.

**Part-time:** Four (4) or fewer credits or registration as a part-time continuing student (501).

*In most situations, international students must maintain full time status. Contact the International Center with questions or concerns about Enrollment Status.*

Cross-Registration and Graduate School Consortium

During the academic year, full-time graduate students may take one course per semester through cross-registration agreements with Boston College, Boston University, and Brandeis University. A full-time graduate student at Tufts University may also enroll for two graduate courses during any semester at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences. Cross-registration is possible on a space available basis. Students who wish to cross-register should consult with the instructor of the course, and should expect to satisfy any prerequisites typically required for enrollment. Cross-registration is not permitted in any summer school. Courses satisfactorily completed (B- or better) at one of the three consortium schools (Boston College, Boston University, and Brandeis University) automatically appear on the student’s Tufts transcript and may be counted toward degree requirements.

Tufts students who wish to cross register should consult with their academic advisor and/or graduate program director before completing the appropriate Cross-Registration Petition. The host institution reserves the right to terminate the student’s participation at that institution at any time.

Cross-registration is also offered through the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality at MIT. This consortium relationship is limited to the specific area of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. For information about course offerings and application materials, visit the GCWS website.

Audits

Graduate students may arrange with an instructor to sit in on a course, but this course will not appear on the academic record.
**Dropping a Course**

A course for which a student has registered remains on the record unless it has been dropped within the first five weeks of the term. Courses that are dropped after the fifth week and before the end of the tenth week of the semester will carry the grade of W and remain on the transcript.

**Grades**

Grades of scholarship are expressed by one of the following letters:

- **A** Superior work
- **B** Meritorious work
- **C** Not acceptable for graduate credit
- **D** Not acceptable for graduate credit
- **F** Failure
- **P** Not acceptable for graduate credit

**S, U** Grades of S (Satisfactory) and U (Unsatisfactory) may be given by the instructor in special topics courses, courses in supervised teaching, research courses, certain graduate colloquia, certain professional development courses such as GIFT and GREAT, and thesis and dissertation courses.

The following symbols are also used:

- **I** Incomplete: an indication that more time will be allowed to complete the work, specifically within six weeks of the first day of classes in the subsequent semester (fall or spring only; summer terms excluded).
- **W** Withdrawn: an indication that a student has been permitted to withdraw from a course after the fifth week of a semester, but no later than the end of the tenth week of classes.
- **Y** Work not scheduled for evaluation during the current term.

**Changes in Course Grades: Statute of Limitations**

Effective education requires timely and objective evaluation of students’ academic work, using clear, standard, fair and public criteria. Such standards should be listed in the course syllabus. While criteria differ across disciplines and faculty, and while the ultimate responsibility for setting standards and evaluating performance rests with departments and individual faculty, submitted grades are final and not subject to negotiation. Exceptions are limited to correcting clerical and calculation errors, and correcting deviations from stated criteria. Students have the right to know the basis of a grade, and faculty should be open to that post-semester conversation. Following such conversation, students who believe that an error or deviation remains may appeal to the department chair and, if necessary, subsequently to the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

**Health Service Requirements**

Prior to initial registration, all graduate students must complete an online medical history and provide proof of required immunizations. Those with missing or incomplete health reports will not be allowed to register. For more information about the requirements, you can visit our Resources for New Students page.
**EXPENSES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS**

**Tuition**
Ph.D. students are charged tuition for a period of five years.

**CONTINUATION TUITION**
Students will be charged continuation tuition each semester after their expected degree completion period.
The expected degree completion period is six (6) years for Ph.D. students.
In cases in which a student is charged continuation tuition and graduates in February, the spring charge will be removed. Tuition scholarships do not cover continuation tuition.

**SUMMER SESSION**
The tuition charged for a full-time arts and sciences graduate program is a comprehensive fee that covers all courses required for completion of the degree. Provided that the course is required for the degree, the graduate school will pay the summer tuition for full-time students. Courses taken through Tufts Summer Session with the intention of fulfilling a degree requirement must be approved by the student’s academic department. (Courses taken in excess of the degree requirements, courses numbered below 100, courses taken for audit, and language courses taken to prepare for a language exam, are excluded.) Students who withdraw from a course or receive a grade below B- will be charged for the course.

*Note: The tuition for academic year 2022-2023 will not be available from the Board of Trustees of the university until May 2022.*

**HEALTH INSURANCE & HEALTH AND WELLNESS FEE**

**STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**
Award packages for full-time Ph.D. students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences include payment of the Tufts Student Health Insurance and the Tufts Health and Wellness Fee.
For Graduate School of Arts and Sciences full-time Ph.D. students, individual student health insurance will be automatically paid for the first five years of study while tuition is being billed. As of July 1, 2019 GSAS will also subsidize health insurance and the health and wellness fee for eligible Grade 6 full-time PhD students (i.e., except if a leave was involved). To receive this benefit students must complete the [online form](#) before July 1st. Once the form has been submitted, eligible students will then have these costs removed from their bill.
Coverage applies only to the enrolled student health plan and health and wellness fee offered by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Tufts will neither pay nor contribute towards other plans should a student elect not to take the Tufts coverage.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**
Per the State of Massachusetts, all Tufts students are required to be covered by the [student health insurance](#). All graduate students who are half time or more are billed and enrolled in the student health insurance plan. If you are covered by a separate policy, the policy must be provided through a U.S.-based insurance company and [comparable to the student health plan](#).

**HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER**
If you are covered by a separate policy, please complete the Health Insurance Waiver on your [SIS](#) account on the [Bills & Balances](#) tab. This waiver process is required [every year](#) and is available [June 1st–July 31st](#). Please note, this waiver does not exempt students from the mandatory [Health and Wellness Fee](#).

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS FEE**
Tufts University is committed to promoting health and wellness among its undergraduate and graduate students through health promotion and prevention programming, student engagement and ensuring compliance with state and federal public health requirements. We pride ourselves in removing obstacles that might prevent students from seeking the medical help or counseling they need. While all students are required to carry health insurance, Tufts fulfills its public health mission by providing primary care and mental health counseling visits at no charge. Our approach is community based. All students pay a Health and Wellness fee so that every student can benefit. In fact, our Health and Wellness services are among the most utilized on campus, rivaling even the libraries and computer labs. Virtually 100 percent of students will engage with us during their time at Tufts. To fund these important initiatives, all the Medford/Somerville and SMFA students are required to pay a Health and Wellness fee. The fee is [mandatory, non-negotiable](#), and set by the Trustees to support our broad-based public
EXPENSES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

health programs and services. To learn more, visit our website at go.tufts.edu/SHAWfee.

Student Activity Fee

All students in graduate degree programs pay an annual student activity fee. The monies are used by the Graduate Student Council (GSC) to support the interests of graduate students.

Union Dues/Agency Fee

Full-time Ph.D. students enrolled and working in the School of Arts & Sciences who receive a stipend contingent on this work are subject to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between Tufts University and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 509. The SEIU represents the above defined group relative to the terms, conditions and privileges of their employment as detailed in the CBA which can be accessed here: Tufts University GSAS Collective Bargaining Unit.

The CBA does not apply to academic terms, conditions and privileges otherwise outlined in this handbook and other related department, School or University policies, practices and procedures.

Payment Options

A monthly payment plan allows master’s and doctoral students to pay annual educational expenses over ten months. One semester’s costs would be paid over five months. Payments begin on July 15 for the fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester. Visit the Financial Services website for more information and to enroll.
FINANCIAL AID

Tufts provides a range of financial assistance in the form of scholarships, loans, and assistantships to as many graduate students as its own and federal funds allow.

Most scholarships, fellowships, and research or teaching assistantships are administered through the schools. Student Financial Services administers all federal aid programs.

Institutional Financial Aid
- Tuition scholarships
- Teaching assistantships (TAs)
- Research assistantships (RAs)
- Fellowships and merit awards
- Research Support
- Health Insurance and Health Coverage

In order to help students whose records indicate scholarly promise, the university offers a variety of awards and training opportunities. Scholarships are available to help defray tuition costs; teaching assistantships, with twenty hours per week of teaching-related activities, are available in many departments.

A number of research assistantships are also available, and some departments are able to provide outstanding students with fellowship and research support.

Usually, no student may hold a fellowship, scholarship, or teaching assistantship for more than five years of study in a Ph.D. program.

In making awards, priority is given to full-time students. Students must be in good academic standing in order to maintain their financial award package.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS
All full-time PhD students receive a full tuition scholarship during the first five years that tuition is being charged.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS
Teaching assistants are graduate students enrolled in the graduate school who, as part of their training, are awarded a stipend to provide part-time support to faculty who are teaching a course at the university. Students who are teaching assistants receive resident credit for, and are charged tuition for, the fraction of the program spent fulfilling degree and residence requirements outside of their teaching assistantship responsibilities. Thus, the holder of one of these teaching assistantships spends up to twenty hours per week in activities associated with instruction, and typically takes two courses per semester. Teaching assistants are eligible for awards unrelated to their assistantship, including scholarships and fellowships.

Teaching assistants normally have instructional responsibility related to most aspects of the courses to which they are assigned, such as recitation or laboratory sections, grading papers and examinations, and other related responsibilities.

Appointments to these assistantships are based upon the recommendation of a student’s department chair or graduate director and are effective for one academic year or one semester, but are renewable. Teaching assistants with appointments of 10 or more hours per week should register for 405-TA each semester. All newly appointed teaching assistants are required to attend the fall semester Teaching Assistant Orientation.

The opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant is an important part of the professional development and training that the university offers graduate students. Feedback from faculty mentors helps identify strengths, encourages performance improvement, as well as prevents, mitigates, or helps resolve academic disputes. Guidelines for the assessment of teaching assistants and additional resources are available on the graduate school website.

The university reserves the right to remove students from their roles as TAs at any time if the university determines, in its sole discretion, that there is cause for removal. Inadequate degree progress as defined by departmental or program standards may constitute cause. Academic dishonesty may also constitute cause. In all instances of dismissal, the student will be notified in writing and may appeal the decision to the appropriate dean.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS
Research assistants are graduate students who actively participate in the ongoing research program of a faculty mentor. Stipends are sometimes available during the summer as well as during the academic year. Research assistantships are normally awarded through the department chair or research program director. The holder of one of these awards typically takes two courses per semester, and spends up to twenty hours per week in activities associated with funded research activities. Research assistants are eligible for other awards, including scholarships and fellowships. Research assistants with appointments of 10 or more hours per week should register for 406-RA each semester. All newly
FINANCIAL AID

appointed research assistants are required to attend the fall semester Research Assistant Orientation. Guidelines for the assessment of research assistants and additional resources are available on the graduate school website.

The university reserves the right to remove students from their roles as RAs at any time if the university determines, in its sole discretion, that there is cause for removal. Inadequate degree progress as defined by departmental or program standards may constitute cause. Academic dishonesty may also constitute cause. In all instances of dismissal, the student will be notified in writing and may appeal the decision to the appropriate dean.

FELLOWSHIPS AND MERIT AWARDS

There are various fellowships and merit awards available through application. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office and academic departments provide award descriptions and application deadlines throughout the academic year.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Graduate Student Travel Funding

Students are offered the opportunity to apply for funding of a portion of their travel expenses to present scholarly work at academic conferences. Resources are limited. Visit the Graduate Student Travel page for more information and guidelines to apply. Students must be in good academic standing and enrolled in a degree program to be eligible to apply.

Graduate Student Research Competition

Graduate students can apply for funding for research projects in the biannual Graduate Student Research Competition (GSRC). The competition is held each semester, and details and guidelines are available online. Students must be in good academic standing and enrolled in a degree program to be eligible to apply to the competition.

Federal Financial Aid

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan
- Federal Work Study
- GradPlus Loans

FEDERAL DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

This federal loan is available to students who are U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens enrolled at least half-time in a degree-seeking or certificate program. Graduate students are eligible for up to $20,500 in the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan per academic year. The student is responsible for interest charges on the Unsubsidized Loan. Students can choose to make interest payments while they are in school or defer payment until after they graduate.

Federal Direct Loans are available to all undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and certificate students enrolled at least half-time in the following programs: Community Environmental Studies, Management of Community Organizations, Museum Studies, Occupational Therapy, Program Evaluation, and the post-baccalaureate Studio Art program.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program is a federally subsidized student employment program through which a portion of a student's wages are paid by federal funds and the balance by the employer. In addition to on-campus jobs, students may also work in off-campus community service jobs developed by the Student Employment Office (SEO). Job opportunities are also available for non-work study applicants.

FEDERAL GRAD PLUS LOAN

Graduate students may participate in the Federal Grad PLUS Loan program. Students must first use their maximum Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan eligibility before using Grad PLUS (Direct Loans have more favorable benefits). Under this federally-guaranteed loan program, students may borrow up to the total amount of education costs less any financial aid. Grad PLUS borrowers will be subject to credit approval.

HOW TO APPLY

Students who wish to apply for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan and Federal Work-Study must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Tufts school code is 002219.

Students who wish to apply for the Federal Grad PLUS Loan must complete an application at the online application through the Federal Student Aid website.

Students will receive an award letter via email indicating their eligibility. Complete details of these programs and descriptions of alternate forms of financing are available on the Student Life website.
FINANCIAL AID

LOAN DEFERMENTS
Tufts University provides information regarding student enrollment status to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse, which then provides information to lenders. Enrollment status is either full-time, half-time, or part-time and is defined on page 11. Most lenders require that students be enrolled in a graduate program at least half-time in order to defer student loans. It is the student’s responsibility to know what enrollment status is required by their lender(s) in order to defer loans, and to register accordingly each semester. Loan payments begin six months after a student graduates, withdraws, or drops below half-time status.

The IRS and Department of Labor are in the process of revising federal guidelines regarding the payment of health insurance coverage for some graduate students. As a result, some of our award packages may need to be modified to comply with these new rules. We will provide updates on the website as new information becomes available, but should you have any questions, please contact gradserve@tufts.edu.

Ph.D. Student Benefits
As a full-time GSAS Ph.D. student, you will have access to many resources on the university’s campuses. In addition to the award information detailed in your offer letter, all Ph.D. students receive a competitive benefits package.

Below is a list of some of the highlights of your benefits package. If you have questions about any of these, please reach out to gsas@tufts.edu. If you have questions about your overall financial package, please contact your department directly.

• In addition to the full coverage of health insurance for grades one through five of the program, GSAS will subsidize health insurance and the health fee for eligible Grade 6 full-time Ph.D. students (i.e., except if a leave was involved). To receive this benefit, students must complete the following online form before July 1st. Eligible students will then have these costs removed bills. Please refer to the Student Health Insurance section for additional information.

• Paid parental accommodation – All full-time, registered Ph.D. students in good standing have the option to pursue a parental accommodation immediately following the birth of a child, adoption of a child, or placement of a foster child. This 12-week paid accommodation may be taken in addition to the unpaid parental leave detailed here. Students interested in the paid parental accommodation should complete the following online form at least 90 days in advance of the expected leave.

• Care.com benefit for child and elder care. This benefit will help you find a care provider for any member of your family – from infants to adults to pets.

• Commuter benefit – GSAS students are eligible to receive a transit pass subside of thirty-five percent (35%) to a limit of up to forty dollars ($40) per month.

In addition, all full-time Ph.D. students have access to Tufts University’s state-of-the-art facilities, such as the Tisch Sports and Fitness Center and more. Learn more in the Campus Resources found here.
PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING DEGREES

Procedure for Awarding of Degrees
Graduate degrees are awarded in August, February, and May. Students are responsible for applying for graduation in SIS and submitting the online Graduate Degree Sheet.

Graduate Student Services and academic departments reserve the right to remove from the degree list the names of candidates who have not met degree requirements.

*Note: Honors standing is not given to arts and sciences graduate students.*

Applying for Graduation
Detailed information about applying for graduation and additional requirements are on the Student Life website.

Commencement Information
Commencement information can be found online at commencement.tufts.edu.

The opportunity to participate in the All University Commencement Ceremony is extended to all students who are graduating in May, or who graduated the prior August or February.

Graduate School of Arts of Sciences students who are on track to graduate in August may submit the Petition to March in Commencement form to march in the commencement ceremony. Advisor verification and approval is required.

*Note: Honors standing is not given to arts and sciences graduate students.*
Examing Committees

The committee chair for all graduate degrees is typically a full-time, tenure-track faculty member from the department. Exceptions must be approved by the dean. Departments may have additional requirements.

The examining committee for Ph.D. candidates in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should be composed of four members—three from the department (or relevant disciplines at Tufts) with which the student has conducted research and one from outside the university.

Details of Thesis/Dissertation Defense and Submission

All students completing a thesis or dissertation as part of their degree requirements must have a defense. A defense consists of two parts:

1. students formally present their research in a public forum to the Tufts community and invited guests and respond to questions from the audience;
2. students defend their thesis or dissertation to members of their committee in a closed session.

It is the student’s responsibility to distribute copies of the thesis or dissertation to the committee members in advance of the defense. The defense should be scheduled several weeks prior to the thesis or dissertation submission deadline. Detailed information on preparing the thesis or dissertation is on the Student Life Website.

Students must submit the Approval of Thesis/Dissertation for Submission to their committee chair once a final draft of the document, including any revisions recommended by the committee, is approved for publication. Online submission of the thesis/dissertation to ProQuest is required.

In accordance with Tufts University’s policy on Intellectual Property, theses/dissertations will be published on the Tufts Digital Library (TDL). The TDL is an open access website, and works deposited into the TDL will available to the public unless embargoed. Embargoes are available for six months, one year, and up to a maximum of two years. During the electronic submission process, students are given the opportunity to order bound paper copies of their thesis or dissertation from ProQuest.
**Student Accessibility Services**

The StAAR Center at Tufts University promotes an accessible college experience for students with disabilities. We support undergraduate and graduate students in developing self-advocacy skills, empowering them at Tufts and beyond. The StAAR Center also advocates for an inclusive and diverse Tufts community through education and collaborative campus partnerships. If you have a disability that requires reasonable accommodations, please contact The StAAR Center at staarcenter@tufts.edu or 617-627-4539 to make an appointment with a representative to determine appropriate accommodations. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be enacted retroactively, making timeliness a critical aspect for their provision.

**Dean of Student Affairs Office**

The Dean of Student Affairs Office is a central resource for all students on campus seeking advice, needing help in a crisis, experiencing unexpected challenges, or hoping to find ways to further connect to co-curricular opportunities at Tufts. To schedule an appointment, call 617-627-3158.

The Tufts community is supported by many departments, including the following, which are part of the Division of Student Affairs: Office of Community Standards, Student Outreach and Support, Office of Residential Life and Learning, Office for Campus Life, the Health Service, Counseling and Mental Health Services, the CARE office, Health Promotion, and the Career Center.

**Community Standards**

Community Standards helps maintain a campus environment of mutual care and respect by offering undergraduate and graduate students informal and formal methods for conflict resolution. The Office of Community Standards assists with concerns about potential violations of the *Student Code of Conduct*, including academic integrity concerns and complaints against student organizations. Anyone who wants to discuss their options for submitting a complaint, needs to respond to a complaint, or has questions about the Student Conduct Resolution Procedure should contact the Office of Community Standards. See Tufts’ *Student Code of Conduct* for more information about the Office of Community Standards and the Student Conduct Resolution Procedure.

**Student Outreach and Support**

The Office of Student Outreach and Support provides and coordinates resources, supports, and services to promote student wellbeing and development. Students who are facing personal, health, family, or other challenges can meet with Student Outreach and Support staff to receive support, learn about and connect to resources, and discuss options. The Office of Student Outreach and Support also helps students return to campus after hospitalizations and supports students considering, establishing, and returning from medical leaves of absence.

**Office of Equal Opportunity**

**Discrimination and Harassment**

Tufts prohibits discrimination against and harassment of any student, employee, applicant for employment, third party, patient, visitor or community member because of: race; color; national or ethnic origin; age; religion; disability; sex; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity and expression; including a transgender identity; pregnancy; genetics; veteran status; active military status; retaliation; and any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law, herein called “protected categories.” The university expects all Tufts employees, students, visitors, patients and community members to join with and uphold this commitment. Tufts University also prohibits retaliation based on a protected activity, such as the filing of a complaint or participation in the investigation of such a claim. Any witness, complainant or respondent involved in an investigation ought not to be retaliated against for their participation in the fact-finding process. Retaliation is a separate and distinct disciplinary matter which will result in action, up to and including termination and/or expulsion.

Concerns about discrimination and harassment can be reported to the Office of Equal Opportunity at 617-627-3298 or oeo@tufts.edu. Anonymous complaints may also be made by reporting online or by using the hotline at 1-866-384-4277.
Information regarding support services for individuals who have experienced any form of misconduct can be found on the OEO website.

Note: If you receive a harassing or threatening email or text message(s), it is important to save it and contact Tufts Police immediately.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Tufts University is committed to providing a campus environment free of sex and gender based discrimination, and sex and gender based harassment. To that end, Tufts prohibits sexual misconduct, that, under this policy, can include: (1) sex and gender based discrimination; (2) sexual and sex and gender based harassment (including a hostile environment based on sex or gender); (3) sexual assault; (4) sexual exploitation; (5) stalking; and (6) relationship violence (including dating and domestic violence).

Under Tufts University policy, sexual misconduct can occur in any sex or gender configuration (i.e., between the same sex or different sex or gender) and regardless of actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation. Tufts also prohibits retaliation.

Sexual misconduct is not limited to the workplace or the educational environment. It can extend beyond University property and could occur at any University sponsored program, activity, or event regardless of the location. It can occur out of state or country, such as at a conference, off-site project, study abroad, field placement, or at an externship. Sexual misconduct can occur between students, employees and third parties such as visitors, vendors, contractors and other community members. Tufts’ Sexual Misconduct Policy applies broadly and in many different circumstances. Tufts will consider the effects of the off-campus conduct when evaluating whether there is a hostile environment on campus. More detailed information about Tufts policies and procedures on this topic may be found on the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) website.

Any concerns regarding sexual misconduct can be reported to the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 617-627-3298 or oeo@tufts.edu. Anonymous complaints may also be made by reporting online or by using the hotline at 1-866-384-4277.

Information regarding support services for individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct, including confidential resources, can be found on the OEO website.

CONSENSUAL RELATIONS WITH FACULTY AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATORS

Tufts strives to maintain a professional educational environment. Because faculty members, TAs, and academic administrators exercise power over students, amorous dating or sexual relationships between faculty members/ TAs/academic administrators and students over whom the faculty member/TA/academic administrator is in a position to exercise authority in any way is a violation of university policy. If you are concerned or have questions about a relationship with a faculty member/TA/academic administrator, assistance can be provided by the Office of Equal Opportunity at 617-627-3298 or oeo@tufts.edu. Information on the Consensual Relationships Policy is available on the OEO website.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Tufts is also committed to providing reasonable accommodations with regard to people with disabilities; people with sincerely held religious beliefs; nursing mothers; qualified service animal requests; and immunization waivers for medical reasons or sincerely held religious beliefs.

These accommodations policies can be found on the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) website. Any and all inquiries regarding the application of this statement and related policies may be referred to: oeo@tufts.edu or call 617-627-3298.

Note: Requests for medical waivers for COVID vaccine should be addressed to OccupationalHealth@tufts.edu.

University Health Service

We are your primary health care site and we currently offer both, in-person and telehealth visits by appointment. Office visits are covered for graduate students who have paid the Health and Wellness fee. We have a lab on site as well as a
This handbook is not a comprehensive set of policies which effect graduate students. Additional policies including those listed below can be found on Tufts University websites.

Absences
Academic and Computer Ethics
Assault
Campus Safety
Cars on Campus
Code of Conduct
Email Policy
Fire Safety
Firearms, Fireworks
Freedom of Expression
Harassment
Hate Crimes and Acts of Intolerance
Hazing
HIV and AIDS
Human Experimentation Projects
Immunizations
Judicial Affairs at Tufts

Jury Duty
Nondiscrimination
Off Campus Living
Policy on the Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs
Privacy and Records
Promotion and Solicitation on Campus
Recognition of New Student Organizations
Religious Observances
Sexual Harassment
Smoking
Social Fraternity Policy for TAs
(This is a policy exclusive to graduate students)
University ID Cards
University Response to Harassment
Use of Tufts Name
Voter Registration