So You’re a Freshman...

What the fuck do you do now??

Tufts Admissions is the single most effective arm of the university. Its young, personable employees, snazzy admissions fairs, and infernal optimism all do their job well - we’re all here now, aren’t we? But once you get past the fancy veneer of the Admissions Office, reality sets in: you’re stuck with a thousand other freshmen just like you, and you have no idea what to do. What the fuck now?

It might be helpful to start by addressing a few myths that are had as an incoming freshman:

1. That Tufts is in any way radical or leftist. Tufts is full of liberals, yes. But one look beyond the Tufts Democrats (who don’t seem to do much of anything of note on campus) will show you a pretty empty landscape. Your new school is dominated by neo-liberal, center left ideology - get used to it.

2. That people at Tufts are any different from people elsewhere. Walk into any freshman dorm on a Friday night and you won’t find many small groups of friends debating political philosophy; what you are likely to find, however, is many excited people listening to pop music and dressing up to go party at the frats. Which brings me to…

3. That Tufts isn’t dominated by mainstream culture. Our bros might not be very good at football and everyone claims to be a nerd, but Tufts provides a fairly typical college experience, with everything that entails. Enjoy.

4. That Tufts is exceptionally diverse. Tufts isn’t as diverse as it tries to market itself. Your classes will probably have lots of upper middle class white kids. Other folks not fitting that description are around though, but are not found on the surface level of Tufts’
dominant cultural narrative. If you’re feeling frustrated with that narrative, a few good places to meet them might be some of the rad classes and organizations recommended here or the Group of Six.

Well, shit. Everything sucks then, right? Not quite! Here are some good things to do right away.

1. Takes some time to reconsider your plan to declare an IR major. Seriously. I know you may have come here because Tufts is renowned for IR and you want to get out of school to work for some globetrotting NGO or to give vague but uplifting TEDx talks half a world away. I get it, and who knows, you might just get that. But you’ll also get all the baggage of a conservative department with a saviour complex and a propensity to cheerlead for the global status quo. Remember: the current head of the department wrote NAFTA legislation in a former life. And she is not exceptional in her all-but-full-throated defense of a neoliberal capitalist model treats as the happily rising tide that will bring all the boats up. If you’re the kind of person who thinks that the socio-economic status quo developed here in the U.S. and “exported” all over the world is more like a hurricane in which culture (and much else) is violently uprooted and people are left to drown, look elsewhere (“Studies” departments like American, Africana, Asian, or Women’s, or Anthropology may be good places to start) for your major/minor.

2. Find some cool clubs/activities. Check out the Students for Justice in Palestine, Tufts Labor Coalition, VOX, Freethought Society, the Sustainability Collective, or just hang out at the Crafts Center! Your mileage will vary, but there are some cool (and a few radical) spaces at Tufts where you can find good friends (hint: your dorm room is likely not one of these places).

3. Get a job on campus ASAP. Your monstrous student loans won’t pay themselves, y’know.

4. Get off campus. Explore Boston, meet students from other schools, go to concerts… whatever it is, just get out of the Tufts bubble.

5. Get involved (in activism). Surprisingly enough, Tufts does have a pretty decent activist scene. Help Students for Justice in Palestine force Tufts to stop bankrolling the Israeli colonization of Palestine, help VOX fight sexism and rape culture. Just do SOMETHING other than get obnoxiously drunk and listen to shitty music.

6. Try not to let the shitty things suck out your soul. Instead, fight back!

The more I make love, the more I want to make revolution. The more I make revolution, the more I want to make love.

Radical History of Tufts

Every place has its historical legacies and, for better or for worse, those legacies are forever its foundational base that can be ignored, but never fully erased it at least one person dares to remember. It is most likely that you have some understanding of Tufts’ history. Maybe you browsed through the university website and read that it was the University Church that founded Tufts College in 1852 and that a women’s college associated with Tufts, Jackson College, was founded in 1910. Upon further investigation you might have learned that the character Elaine from Seinfeld was a Tufts alumni. While such fun facts hold some historical relevance, we want to tell of a different history.

Institutional memory seeks to magnify its laurels and quel parental-based pocketbook fears assuring that their money will be put to good use. We want to tell the stories of some of the people who
have crossed Tufts campus, and the blood, sweat, and tears - and diminished GPAs - of those who decided to allocate their time and effort into challenging something about Tufts.

We will give you a taste of that history, but we also encourage you to make your own inquiries, do your own research, and maybe even write a paper on the subject. As the saying goes, the struggle wouldn’t be called the struggle if it was easy. Let’s not forget that the struggle is ongoing and it is up to you to pick up the mantle and add another chapter to the radical histories at Tufts.

A longer description of each of the events described below is available at https://tuftsaac.wordpress.com/tufts-radical-histories

Native Americans: The land the Tufts campus occupies was once Native American land, and it cannot be separated from that genocide.

Slavery: Near the Tufts gym on College Ave., there is the Royall House, an 18th century family mansion, with a large slave quarters.

Black Civil Rights: In the late 1960s, Tufts Afro American Society protested that Lewis Hall was being constructed by a company with racist hiring practices. They were met with riot cops, and eventually did a sit-in in the president’s office. During the same era, the Ex-college was created partially in response to demand for African American Studies and Women’s Studies, and the Africana Center was established despite much resistance from the administration.

Gay rights: A few weeks before the Stonewall Uprising, the class poet declared over the commencement microphone, “I AM A HOMOSEXUAL” and then the microphone went dead.

Support of dictators: The cannon was first painted in 1977 to protest the honorary degrees Tufts was giving to Philippine Dictators Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

Africana Studies: In 2011-2012, the Pan-African Alliance occupied Ballou Hall to demand concrete steps towards the Africana Studies Department students for 42 years. They were assisted by Tufts Occupiers, a student group inspired by Occupy Wall Street. This sit-in resulted in the establishment of the Africana Studies major and minor as programs, and the Asian American Studies minor as a program.

Standing with Survivors: In the spring of 2014, Tufts was found non-compliant with Title IX after a four year investigation with the Office of Civil Rights. The OCR in Boston found tufts to be non-compliant with past practices and compliant in current practices. However, the Federal OCR in DC, found Tufts to be noncompliant in past and current practices. Tufts Legal Counsel and Vice President, Mary Jeka, then proceed to “revoke” her signature from the Voluntary Resolution Agreement, indicating the administration’s disagreement with the findings. This action of denying accountability spark students to rally on the library of Tisch roof and then form a human chain around Ballou. Students negotiated with administrators for several hours, and together they released the Joint-Resolution Statement, which outlined changes that would be made to Tufts Policy and practices and how those changes would be made.

For more information about radical history at Tufts University, be sure to check our website at www.tuftsdisorientation.org
Being a Queer Person of Color

If you’re not white but happen to consider yourself gay, lesbian, bi, trans, NGC or queer in any respect, you will find that the mainstream LGBT community at Tufts (like the entire campus) is overwhelmingly white. Compacting this reality is the fact that the white gay community on campus is dominated by white, cisgender men, many coming from wealthy and privileged backgrounds. This leaves many queer students that are not white scratching their heads and asking, rightfully so, “Where the fuck is the color?”

Trust us. It is here, friends, so don’t fret. But you will have to actively seek the community out and make your presence known, since the QPOC (a blanket term which stands for queer people of color) community at Tufts is minuscule compared to the QSA-card carrying crowd, which tends to be very white, very male, and very uninterested in talking about realities of racism, fetishism, and legitimate inclusion.

Queer identities for many white students on campus act as a privilege camouflage, enabling issues of white supremacy, sexism, classism, cultural appropriation, and bi/transphobia to go widely unchecked by the LGBT community (“community” stands in for “mass of white gay men”) at Tufts. Many of these individuals consider themselves socially progressive or radical and come from experiences that may have solidified a victim lens through which all forms of oppression cannot clearly be seen (i.e. I’m a white gay man and I have been treated badly because of my sexuality so therefore I cannot be racist, sexist, ableist, fat-shaming, etc.) In reality, of course, this is fucked logic.

While not all white (men) at Tufts follow this logic, beware: the denial is real.

Lesbians and queer women on campus also struggle with this issue of in-community discrimination and are often good allies in the fight for awareness of queer identities that are not 5’10, white, hard-bodied Robert Pattinson stand-ins.

In other words: QUEERS OF COLOR, WE GOT YOUR BACK.

But you’ll have to find us first!

The newly improved LOQSOCA (loving ourselves as queer students of color in action) formerly QSOCA (queer student of color and allies) provides a space, both physical and communal, where the multi-faceted identities of non-heterosexual and non-cisgender students of COLOR at Tufts University are free from attack. LOQSOCA aims to create a community that values the self-celebration, self-care, affirmation, and love of these individuals, within their own communities and throughout the Tufts community.

While demographics do not exist for how many students of color identify as queer at Tufts, the community is small enough to know most and large enough to not get bored easily. LOQSOCA operates out of the LGBT Center and is the only Center sponsored group for students that are not white, however, the social community of queer people of color extends outside of LOQSOCA and outside of Tufts as well. As a queer person of color in Greater Boston, you will find that community is truly limitless if you seek it out (find one QPOC and you’ll soon meet the rest). Now, some basic questions you may have.

Where to party:
PEOPLE OF COLOR PARTIES ARE THE PLACE TO GO.

Whether it’s a party in SoGo, a salsa party at La Casa, or an impromptu event thrown by Capen House or the Caribbean Club, most QPOC at Tufts frequent social circles in which people of color exist and are celebrated, included, and active.
NOTE: This does not mean queer people of color on campus receive the warmest of welcomes in culture centers or spaces exclusively intended for non-white students—there is plenty of work to be done to create space (physical, spiritual, and intellectual) for queer students in these communities. LOQSOCA is a big part of this work. Remember, Tufts at best is only a microcosm of the of the world at large.

On Negotiating Whiteness/Sexuality:
Since the queer community at large at Tufts is so white, you may often find yourself downplaying your racial or ethnic identity in superwhite settings (see QSA, most LGBT Center groups) and downplaying your sexuality in other settings (sports, activist groups, arts groups, etc.)
DON’T.
There is more than enough space for everything beautiful you bring to Tufts—don’t hide. Be as vocal or active if you wish in your circles AS a queer person of color—this is the only way our voices will be heard. You should feel safe and loved and SEEN on campus anywhere as a QPOC and if you don’t then let’s talk about it and raise awareness and support one another.

QPOC at Tufts and at large may feel like sometimes we have to shut down parts of ourselves to be TOLERATED in certain spaces and that shit has patriarchy/cisgender privilege/white supremacy ALL OVER IT—don’t settle, this place is going to be your home for the next 4 years and you deserve to experience it surrounded by people that are not in denial of your dynamic existence.

Critical Toolkit
- Schooling: Who has access to pre-K education, K-12 education, higher education? Who goes to well-funded schools? Who has their history taught? Who sees themselves reflected in the curriculum, in the teaching staff, in the administration? Who gets placed into “advanced” classes? Who gets sympathy and second chances and who gets disciplined?
- Media: Who sees their experience reflected in the media? Who is invisible? Who gets relegated to bit parts or stereotypes? Who controls media? Who gets movies they want made? Who gets funding for the arts? Who gets their product marketed and pushed, and who is left to consume these products?
- Government: Which neighborhoods get attention during local elections? Who can influence politicians? Who sets the priorities of what the government works on?
- Law and criminal “justice”: Who has access to good legal representation? Who is seen as innocent in a courtroom? Who feels comfortable calling the police? Who gets profiled on account of their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender presentation, or other characteristics?
- Healthcare: Who has insurance? Who gets misdiagnosed at higher rates? Who has access to hospitals? Who has access to alternative healing spaces? Who has access to therapy and resources for improving one’s mental health?
- Geography: Who has access to grocery stores? Who has more liquor stores and polluting factories and highway intersections in their neighborhood? Who has more parks and trees and libraries in their neighborhood?
- Housing: Who has access to public housing? Who faces housing discrimination? Who sees the legacies of red-lining and residential segregation?
- Employment: Who is more likely to get hired, to get promoted, to get paid well? Who has pre-existing networks of people with power in the economy? Who has an economic safety net?
These are mostly examples of tangible resource and access privilege, but privilege and inequality also operate along intangible lines: Who is seen as an individual? Who is seen as beautiful? Who is seen as smart? Who is seen as funny? Who is seen as American? Who gets second chances? Whose life is seen as valuable? Although here these are divided into areas, and we often talk about each oppression as distinct (i.e. “racism” “sexism” “ableism”), they are all tied together and all connected. No one is un-gendered or un-raced. These identities are operating within all of us, all of the time. And they are connected to this broader system all of the time, which informs each of our individual realities.

While none of us created these systems, we have inherited them and we have a collective responsibility to dismantle them. That responsibility is especially strong for those of us who benefit from oppression, because violence is done in our name and inequality is an outcome that favors us. The transformation of our guilt into responsibility often means taking action.

What to do?

**Locate yourself:** Who are you? What privileges do you have? How have you come to understand the world and how does your past inform your present? For example, if you believe the police are here to protect you, how is that a reflection of your background? If you haven’t thought about where gender-neutral bathrooms are on campus, how is that a reflection of your privilege? Recognize that you carry all of these things with you all the time. In the spaces we recommend within the guide, you will probably be asked to do this. For example, some groups expect introductions to include PGP’s, or preferred gender pronouns, like “he, him, his” or “they, their” or “she series.” It’s important to locate yourself because we are all implicated in these systems. Hold yourself accountable. Be self-critical.

**Take responsibility for your own learning:** You can request any book from Tufts library. There’s also great online resources (I especially recommend the many great tumblr blogs on black feminism.)

Responsibility over your own learning also means that if you have privilege in one area over another person, you shouldn’t immediately go ask that person lots of questions about their oppression. It’s not their responsibility to educate you, and sometimes those questions might feel exhausting and/or violent. Instead, seek out other resources first. If you still have questions, and this person is your friend, you could bring up that you’ve read/heard/watched this and wondered about their thoughts and opinions. Some people still might not want to discuss this with you. Others are more than happy to sit down with strangers and talk about all sorts of things. Everyone is different, so pay attention.

**Listen:** Listening is a critical part of paying attention. Lots of times we listen while simultaneously thinking of our response. Try just to listen. Lots of times we listen with just our ears. Try to listen more fully. Try to hear where someone is coming from. It’s important how you listen. And by that, I mean don’t just listen and consume other people’s pain. Being an academic voyeur is violent. There is privilege in silence just as there is privilege in speaking. Striking a careful balance between the two is hard. Be aware of when and where you are taking up space. Think about how you are taking up that space. Some groups call this “step up, step back” — step up if you’re haven’t contributed or if you’re slacking, step back if you’ve been taking up a lot of space. When talking, try to always speak from your position and your experience, and if you’re privileged, try to find ways to do so that doesn’t make you, your experience, and your pain the center.

**Feel:** This is real life we’re talking about, even though it can be couched in academic mumbo-jumbo. As my friend says, “don’t let dead men with books hold your heart hostage.” It’s okay to grieve. It’s okay to be angry. It’s okay to love. It took me a long time to stop policing my own emotions. And on that note, try not to police other people’s emotions by telling them to “calm down” or that they are “too angry.” Anger and sadness are rational responses to oppression.
Take risks: Feeling defensive and being uncomfortable are not necessarily pleasant feelings, but there will be no free and easy revolution. Being uncomfortable does usually mean that you are learning and challenging yourself. As one of my favorite professors here at Tufts said about challenging oppression, “If you’re comfortable, you’re doing it wrong.” I tell myself this all the time, trying to push myself. See #1. Remember, dropping out is exercising your privilege. It is an option reserved for people that we – as friends, as a school, as a country – permit to be comfortable, at the expense of others. Yes, grappling with these ideas and these emotions is hard. We don’t do this work because it’s easy. We do this because it’s our responsibility. And because we don’t want to be oppressors. We’re in the business of reclaiming our humanity, which is the project of a lifetime. So keep learning, keep working, keep fighting. You’ll get better at all these balancing acts. Not perfect, but better.

Advice for when you mess up: and you’re probably gonna mess up. We all mess up. As Audre Lorde writes, “The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations which we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor which is planted deep within us.” It’s our responsibility to resist this internal oppressor with everything we have. But sometimes we make mistakes. When this happens, someone else may call you on it. If you’re like most people, your first reaction to being called out (e.g. someone tells you that you are being privileged, that you are being oppressive, that you are being racist, sexist, etc.) is likely to involve defensiveness. Remember that we are all indoctrinated to operate within these systems and our mistakes are made within that context. When overcoming defensiveness, recognize that you were not attacked; in fact, it was probably pretty hard for that person to call you out. I suggest actually feeling grateful that they did so. They didn’t have to call you out, but they did, for your education and because they considered you worth it. I know that I do not spend energy engaging people that I consider lost causes. I also often feel afraid to call out people with more societal privilege than I, and when I do, it’s almost always a sign of trust. I trust that you’re going to listen to me and take me seriously.

So, if you feel like you can move past defensiveness and use this experience as fuel to do better later on, here are some examples of constructive things to say: I hear what you are saying. You’re right. Thank you for telling me. I’m sorry. I’ll do better in the future.

Then, take steps to actually do better in the future.

Friends Don’t Let Friends Go On Birthright

We are writing this piece as seven students who identify as Palestinian. We were born into different religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Atheism, although none of this should matter. What matters is that all of us identify as Palestinian because our parents and/or our grandparents were born there. We cannot include our names because we fear being denied entry to the West Bank where some our families still live.

Today we are asking you, our fellow Tufts students, to kindly read this with an open mind. Some of you may simply not care about a conflict so distant, but some of you may want to know: Why is Tufts hosting the National Students for Justice in Palestine Conference this Fall? What is our role as students in response to the recent massacres in Gaza? We are writing to you, the curious, compassionate, and questioning Tufts student. We hope that our words resonate with you and form a deeper understanding of what it means to be Palestinian on this campus.
Consider this:

None of us carry a Palestinian identification card. Because we do not have this ID card, we cannot live in Palestine as our parents and grandparents did before the creation of the ID card and the state of Israel. Some of us are refugees because our families were expelled from the land in 1948 and never received an ID. Some of our families fled the wrath of the largest open-air prison in the world, Gaza, and live as Palestinian-Americans in the diaspora. Meanwhile, some of us have lived in Palestine for our whole lives but still enter the territory as tourists because our families’ identification cards were stolen when they were child prisoners.

However, if we did have Palestinian IDs, the chances of us attending Tufts would be slim. If you carry a Palestinian ID, you are not allowed to go into Israel, which means you don’t have access to the only airport in Israel/Palestine. There are ways around this, of course, but to be a Palestinian means that you have to get permission to leave your country’s territory in order to move freely.

So why mention this?

Well, imagine what it is like to walk by a Birthright poster on this campus, knowing that you have never, and perhaps will never, see the very house your grandparents were expelled from in 1948. Yet, over one fourth of the Tufts population can see that house. They can even buy that house. Why? Simply because they are Jewish, they are offered a free trip to historic Palestine as part of what is marketed as their “Birthright”.

To us, Birthright is the erasure of our right to our homeland, and it promises our homeland to one in four students at this university. Birthright is marketed as apolitical. Participants are led to believe that it is an innocent trip of camel rides, hiking, clubbing, and swimming in the Dead Sea. It offers tourists a chance to “reconnect” with a country to which they have never been, and often times, to which they have no immediate familial ties.

Yet for us, Birthright is not only political; it is violent. That may sound dramatic, but it is our reality. To make Birthright “fun” and “safe” means eradicating an Arab populace. It means erecting illegal walls and vanishing the Occupation. It means exiling our brothers and our sisters to refugee camps, prisons, or worse. It is important that students at this university understand the implications of their so-called right. Kind reader, understand that our hearts ache when we see photographs of friends and acquaintances swimming in the sea our grandparents once swam in. Our hearts ache when we see photographs of classmates posing in front of the mosques and churches our grandparents once prayed in, but now pray to one day see. Our hearts ache when we see pictures of peers eating the fruits of the land we have grown up hearing of, but never tasted. Our hearts ache each time we are reminded that we do not share this birthright.

That being said, we hope Tufts students who go on Birthright realize the privilege and power they possess. For you, these events may be innocuous, exotic, and enjoyable. For us, your photos create a feeling we hope no one will ever have to endure, no matter where they are from. We feel the weight of our lives that could have been, but never were.

If you are not eligible to go on Birthright and are still feeling rather distant from this “conflict”, know this: this year alone, $3.1 billion of your tax money will be sent to Israel’s military courtesy of the United States. This money is not going to Israeli hospitals, animal shelters, or orphanages. Your money is likely spent on tear gas canisters and guns. On this campus, we are equals, but in the Holy Land we are on the opposite sides of the barrels of those guns. This is not an ALLIES military simulation or an abstract euphemism; these are our lives and yours too.

Nor can we forget that we are the “lucky ones.” Thanks to certain twists of fate, hard work, and dumb luck in our families’ histories,
we have the opportunity to attend a top-tier American university and live in a relatively stable environment. This privilege is a mere dream for millions of Palestinians living under the crippling effects of occupation, expulsion, and persecution. More globally than simply denying human rights to your fellow jumbos, “Birthright’s” foundational concepts deny human rights to your fellow humans.

So we hope that when you walk by a direct action that people call “extreme” or attend one of our events that will be reported as “polarizing,” you understand this: We are here to foster tension. As Martin Luther King Jr. once famously wrote, “Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue so that it can no longer be ignored.” We hope that our direct action brings discomfort, but does not cause harm.

All of us writing this have at some point questioned our involvement in Students for Justice in Palestine. We do not want to be seen as inflammatory by conveying the truth of our lives. We do not want targets on our heads. Given the choice most of us would rather learn to play a new instrument, take up rock climbing, write poetry, or fall in love. But for now, our primary passion and goal is to live as free people. So long as programs like Birthright exist, so long as apartheid exists in our homeland, we, as Palestinians, do not have a choice. We did not choose to be a colonized people. Our bodies are political, whether we like it or not -- and so are yours.

When you see us building mock apartheid walls, asking difficult questions, and fostering discomfort in place of passive acceptance on this campus, please realize that we see it as our moral obligation: not only for us and our families, but for the silenced who cannot be here and for those who desire to live a life in solidarity with the oppressed. We are fostering this tension to build a community; a community in which we are truly treated as equals; a community where no student has a “birthright” at the expense of another person’s freedom.

This is Privilege

Disclaimer: This is not intended as a be-all and end-all definition of privilege, but hopefully will serve as a useful guide in understanding it.

So what is “privilege”?
- In a social justice context, privileges are constant benefits that people experience in society based on aspects of their identities. Each person has various aspects of identity, and so every person has a unique set of privileges that they experience.
- Just because someone benefits from one form of privilege does not mean they benefit from all forms of privilege. Depending on the context that a person is in, different aspects of their identity can give them privileges. Generally, people don’t have a say in whether they “have” privilege or not; our privileges are a result of various factors outside of our control. Privilege can’t be “erased”, but it can be countered, starting with awareness.

Aside from daily personal interactions, privilege also affects people on an institutional and macro level. For example, studies show that job applicants with names that “sound” African-American are less likely to receive interview offers compared to job applicants with “white” names, even when they have the exact same qualifications.

How privilege manifests in our lives as Tufts students:
- Racial privilege: A white man walking down a street late at night or through a high-end store without fear of being labeled “suspicious” or “out of place” is an example of white privilege.
- Class privilege: Being able to plan which tropical country you’ll be spending your spring break in rather than how you’ll eat when the dining halls close for the week is an example of class privilege.
- Gender privilege: Being able to go out in public in a tank top and shorts on a hot summer day without worrying about getting catcalled is an example of male privilege.
Cisgender privilege: Being able to immediately identify the “correct” restroom without having to worry about being mistaken for the wrong gender or harassed for using the restroom you identify with is an example of cisgender privilege.

Sexual Orientation Privilege: In many states, someone can be evicted by their landlord purely based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Straight people generally don't have to worry about this, while LGBTQ people often do.

Language Privilege: Being able to hold a conversation without being mocked, misunderstood, or marginalized because of an accent or “improper” English is an example of language privilege.

Able-bodied privilege: Being able to take the stairs to visit your friends on the fourth floor of Tilton is an example of able-bodied privilege.

Citizenship Privilege: Only having to worry about getting your textbooks before classes start rather than whether your visa will be renewed on time is an example of citizenship privilege.

Privilege dos and don'ts: Suggestions for effecting change and discussing privilege respectfully

- Do be aware of your own and others’ privilege, and realize that it has played a part in the opportunities that you have or have not been afforded. Your privilege doesn't define you, but it does make a difference in your experiences and the experiences that you share with others.

- Don't dismiss someone’s accomplishments and personal effort simply because they have some type of privilege. We all worked hard to get into Tufts, and we owe it to our fellow Jumbos to be respectful towards each other.

- Do encourage and actively participate in discussions about privilege. College is your best opportunity to be challenged and to broaden your horizons, so make it happen!

- Don't shut someone down or ignore their opinions because they don’t fully understand the privileges that they have. You can help them understand what privilege is!

- Do keep in mind that everyone has various aspects to their identity. Just because someone is privileged in one way doesn’t mean they’re always privileged in others.

- Don't attack other people based on their privilege. Remember, we don't get to choose which privileges we benefit from.

- Do own up to your mistakes; everyone slips up but that doesn’t mean you have failed. Keep practicing and you'll get better.

- Don't feel guilty about the privileges that you have. Guilt won’t create meaningful change, but taking action and being aware will.

- Do practice the “step up, step back” principle. In short: step up when your voice is generally not heard much, and step back if it is. But throughout, make sure to listen.

- Do get out there and make a difference. At Tufts, intellectual discussions about privilege and social justice can happen all the time, everywhere. You can make positive changes by getting involved and speaking up!

When all is said and done, the best advice of all when thinking about privilege is to always be kind, listen, and strive for empathy.
Sexual “Misconduct” Policy

Tufts, unfortunately, has a dark history both of sexual violence and of failed attempts to address sexual violence. Tufts was found non-compliant with Title IX in April of 2014, and actually “revoked” its signature from their voluntary resolution agreement, saying that the administrators did not agree to the Office of Civil Right's findings. In response, students rallied together to stand with survivors and succeeded in making some changes.

The term “sexual misconduct” is itself problematic and speaks volumes to how Tufts prioritizes its reputation over the health and safety of survivors. At Tufts, when someone is found responsible of rape or sexual assault, there are a range of possible consequences. Tufts students can only be safe if predators are expelled, however, assailants can be suspended for just a semester or even put on probation. Punishments for plagiarism and cheating often are more serious than those given to people found responsible for sexual assault. Sexual violence is not misconduct or misbehavior or a mistake; it is violence. It traumatizes people, it changes their lives forever, and treating it as misconduct instead of violence trivializes and invalidates the lived experiences of people. It's disrespectful.

Tufts is getting better, and many people leave the adjudication process feeling more empowered. Yes, non-compliance with Title IX is scary, but that means Tufts has been publicly shamed into getting its shit together. It’s not just Tufts: all colleges are beginning to be held accountable for the ways in which they treat sexual violence on and off campus. There are even cool radical Tufts alumni, former students and current students actively involved in this (look up Zerlina Maxwell, Wagatwe Wanjuki, and John Kelly for starters). Below we’ve included information about Tufts policy and reporting to best inform YOUR decision to do what is right FOR YOU. We also have listed several on and off campus resources, that are both confidential and not confidential. There are so many people who want to help you, let them if you need or want it.

Love, a fellow survivor

Defining Sexual Violence

The next 10 pages may be difficult to read; they contain graphic descriptions of sexual violence and may trigger survivors. These are some of the most basic detail of the misconduct policy. The policy itself has specific examples of these acts, and explains them in other words. If you have any questions, please go to http://oeo.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Misconduct-Sexual-Assault-Policy-050614.pdf

Consent is an informed, knowing, and voluntary decision to engage in mutually acceptable sexual activity. Consent is active, not passive. Signals of consent must be part of a mutual and ongoing process, offered freely and knowingly. Consent can be given by words or actions as long as those words or actions create mutually understandable permission regarding the conditions of sexual activity. It is the responsibility of the person who wants to engage in the sexual activity to make sure that he/she has consent from any other person(s) involved.

- Silence, by itself, cannot constitute consent.
- Consent to one sexual act does not constitute or imply consent to a different sexual act.
- Previous consent cannot imply consent to future sexual acts.
- Consent is required regardless of the parties’ relationship status or sexual history together.
- A verbal “no,” even if it may sound indecisive or insincere, always indicates a lack of consent

Consent can never be given by:

a. Someone who is incapacitated. A person can be incapacitated through the use of drugs, alcohol or any other intoxicating substance, or when they are unconscious or asleep. It is a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy (and Massachusetts law) to engage in sexual activity with someone you know or should know is incapacitated.

b. Someone under the legal age of consent. The legal age of consent in Massachusetts is sixteen (16). It is a per se violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy (and Massachusetts law) to engage in sexual activity
with a person who is under the age of consent, regardless of whether the person was a willing participant in the conduct. 
c. Someone who is mentally disabled. Certain mental disabilities can cause a person to be unable to knowingly consent to sexual activity. It is a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy to engage in sexual activity with a person whose mental disability renders them incapable of giving consent and the disability is known or should have been known to the non-disabled sexual partner. Under these circumstances, the conduct is non-consensual regardless of whether the person appeared to be a willing participant.

A person who has consumed alcohol and/or drugs still has a responsibility to obtain ongoing consent for any sexual activity with another person. The use of alcohol or other drugs by the person initiating sexual activity will never be accepted as an excuse for failing to obtain consent.

Force may never be used to make someone submit or to complete sexual activity. The use of force to cause someone to engage sexual activity is, by definition, non-consensual contact. The term “Force” includes the use of any of the following:
- Physical Force, Violence, the Presence of a Weapon
- Threats or Harassment
- Intimidation, Abuse of Power or Authority, Implied Threats
- Coercion or Duress

Incapacity is a mental or physical state in which a person cannot make a rational, reasonable decision because they lack the ability to understand the consequences of their actions. Incapacity literally means the inability to fully understand what is happening. First responders will assess someone’s capacity or incapacity through the use of common questions such as “What is your name?”, “Do you know where you are?”, “Do you know what day it is?”, and “Do you know how you got here?”. This is called being oriented to person, place, time and event. Someone who cannot answer some or all of these questions accurately may lack the ability to make rational, reasonable judgments as a result of consuming alcohol, drugs or other intoxicating substances. A person may also be incapacitated because they are unconscious or asleep. In all of these situations, a person is incapacitated and therefore unable to consent to sexual activity. It is a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy (and Massachusetts law) to engage in sexual activity with a person who is incapacitated, regardless of whether the person appeared to be a willing participant. If there is any question regarding whether a person may be incapacitated, it is best not to engage in sexual activity with that person.

Sexual Assault is the act of committing unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature, whether by an acquaintance or by a stranger. Such contact is unwanted when it occurs without the consent of one or both individuals, when one of the individuals is incapacitated or incapable of giving consent, or occurs with the use of force. An “acquaintance” can include close friends, intimate partners, family members, classmates, or can be someone you just met. Victims/survivors and the accused can be of any sex/gender, sexual orientation and/or sexual identity. There are many degrees and forms of sexual assault including, but not limited to, the following:
- Non-Consensual Sexual Contact/Activity
- Forced Sexual Contact/Activity
- Non-Consensual Sexual Intercourse/Penetration (Rape)
- Forced Sexual Intercourse/Penetration (Rape)

Sexual Exploitation occurs when a person takes non-consensual, unjust, or abusive sexual advantage of another, for his/her own advantage or benefit, or for the benefit or advantage of anyone other than the one being exploited and that behavior does not otherwise constitute non-consensual sexual contact/activity, non-consensual sexual intercourse/penetration, or sexual harassment.
- Photographing or Video/Audio Taping Of Sexual Contact/Activity (without consent)
- Voyeurism
- Inducing Intoxication/Incapacitation For the purpose of sexual Activity
Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that involves unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. It can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature or conduct directed at a person because of his or her sex/gender when such conduct is made an explicit or implicit condition of an individual’s academic status or employment; or refusing or submitting to such conduct is used as basis for academic or employment decisions; or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance, i.e. it is sufficiently serious, pervasive, or persistent as to create an intimidating, hostile, humiliating, demeaning, or sexually offensive working, academic, residential, or social environment under both an objective (a reasonable person’s view) and subjective (the complainant’s view) standard.

Sex and/or gender discrimination is the unfair or unequal treatment of an individual (or group) based on sex or gender which violates federal and state law (including Title IX). Tufts University also prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. Tufts is committed to providing an educational and work environment that is free from sex and/or gender discrimination. For more information on this this type of Sexual Misconduct, please see Tufts’ Non-Discrimination Policy.

Stalking involves an intentional course of repeated conduct or behavior over a period of time, directed at a specific person, which causes a person to feel alarm, annoyance, emotional distress and/or fear. Stalking and cyberstalking are behaviors prohibited by Massachusetts law. Stalking can also constitute a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy when the conduct involves a Tufts student and is gender-based.

Relationship Violence is intentionally violent or controlling behavior by a person who is currently or was previously in a relationship with the victim. Relationship violence includes actual or threatened physical injury, sexual assault, psychological abuse, economic control, and/or progressive social isolation.

Relationship violence occurs in all type of relationships (i.e. heterosexual, same sex or any other type of relationship). Relationship violence may constitute a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy when it involves a Tufts student and the conduct is gender-based.

Retaliation is an adverse or negative action taken against an individual for raising concerns about conduct which is prohibited by law or policy. Any member of the University community has the right to raise good faith concerns about or file a good faith complaint of sexual misconduct without fear of retaliation. It is unlawful and it is a violation of University policy to retaliate against an individual for filing a complaint of sexual harassment or for cooperating in a sexual harassment investigation. Retaliation against anyone who reports an incident of sexual misconduct, brings forward a complaint or who in any way participates in an inquiry or investigation of sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. Retaliation is also prohibited against anyone who in good faith opposes, in a reasonable manner, an act or policy believed to constitute a violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Any person who retaliates against an individual reporting sexual harassment, filing a sexual harassment complaint, or participating in a sexual harassment investigation is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or termination by the University.

If you or anyone you know has become subject to anything defined above, you are protected under the Tufts Sexual Misconduct policy and if you so choose, there are resources on and off campus for you to get the justice and help you want or need. It is never your fault and you are not alone.
How To Not Rape:
A List Written by Zerlina Maxwell
Shared with you today in her own words by a Tufts survivor

1. First it is important to know what legally is rape
Gaining legal consent is vital because having sex with someone who is asleep, unconscious, or intoxicated, resisting, telling you no, or saying nothing at all is against the law and is undoubtedly rape. Honestly, how absolutely wonderful is it to know that the person you want to sleep with really wants to fuck you too! We should not go for the absence of a “no” but you must obtain an enthusiastic “YES!” Consent isn’t that hard to figure out. It isn’t gendered; it’s for all of us. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to ask.

Now I think it is very valid to discuss the issue that many people drink to lower inhibitions so they can get it on. That could be great and fun for you but also make sure that this other person is into that as well! The fact is a lot of people get drunk and fuck but if you cannot respect other people’s bodies and force yourself onto others, you should not drink that much. Stop catcalling and touching others inappropriately; go home you are drunk. If it looks like they may need a bucket; respect their boundaries and give them a fucking bucket. Don’t try to have sex with them. Personally, that doesn’t sound sexy or desirable to have someone who can’t give consent. And let’s be real, it is more difficult to orgasm if you are drunk.

2. Guess what! Women are not sexual objects as much as our society and culture makes them out to be.
We know why survivors are shamed into silence; the dehumanization of women, trans folk, prisoners, persons of colors and queer men spans all areas of American life. Rape culture exists everywhere from TV shows to the news to our campus. Rape occurs too often not because the perpetrators are necessarily notorious criminals, but because they have not been taught to see those they harm as full, autonomous humans.
Do not take away our bodies; they are not for your entertainment or amusement. You are not entitled to; it so respect boundaries. We are not a commodity to be won, a virginity to be stolen, a purity to be taken away. We are your brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces, and nephews but that shouldn’t matter because can’t you see we are human.
It’s not just women: persons of color, queer men, queer women and trans* folk are more likely to be survivors than most people. It isn’t just the oversexualization and dehumanization of women, it’s also the dehumanization and commodification of these bodies. Sexual violence is intersectional, and ignoring that is actively participating in a racism, homophobia, and transphobia.
Do not take away our agency. Allow our voices to be heard. Freud be damned, yes means yes and no means no. Just ask.

3. Sometimes Gender Is LITERALLY the Worst
Ok, that might sound strange especially for a lot of the freshmen. Let me try and explain what I’m thinking in some basic terms. We are born and the world puts us into one of two categories where you are either male or female? If not, a doctor can assign you a sex through a terrible surgery. The males are expected to be masculine and the females are expected to be feminine. We all know what those words mean and so think about what you associate with each. Often masculinity is associated with power and physical strength. This idea isn’t helping men or women. Our society needs to start teaching men how to express healthy masculinity because, “Rape is not about evil in the world. It’s about power and control, in relationships and in the world. The messages that men get around masculinity from a young age are too often about violence and about exerting power and control. We need to challenge the definition of masculinity as inherently violent,” says Pandit. There is a lot of talk in bro-culture (I even hate saying it) about “getting some” and what-not-- you all know what I mean and I’m not sure if that is healthy for everyone. When my friends and acquaintances are hurt and traumatized by this mentality, I think it’s time to rethink it. It is time to acknowledge the power you do have and to be fucking sensitive about it.

4. Believe when survivors disclose to you.
It does not mean that this is something you want to hear. If it upsets you to hear a close friend disclose, take care of yourself.
But that does not mean that you can’t believe them and believe in them. You are not a judge or a lawmaker and no you weren’t fucking there. We live in a society that blames its victims. I think we have all seen that too recently. I urge you to stand on the side of the hurt and of the oppressed. On the side of the person who trusted you enough to tell you their experience. I will throw out the statistic that people lie about rape as often as people lie about theft. When you start believing in survivors and stop blaming them, we come a little closer to ending the silence and to ending rape culture.

Make sure you do not judge the choices of the survivors! Not everyone feels comfortable going through the OEO, or the criminal justice system: that is OK. Your job as a friend and ally to survivors isn’t to take away another choice from a survivor, it’s to actively support and love and cherish that person. Help provide resources if needed, but listen to them to be best possible supporter in their journey. Pressuring someone only retraumatizes them and forces them to inflict self blame. Stop. Listen to survivors, let us have our voices when we feel like so much else has been taken away.

5. And the tough one: By-stander intervention

There is a lot to say about this step and its quite hard. Does the DO Guide trust you to use your own judgment? Maybe. Let me say this: It is about community accountability and it is important that we have networks that hold assailants accountable. Hopefully that hits home to you, Freshmen, but I also want the Tufts administration to hear that one. YOU must hold rapists accountable.

Back to you students I give you a quote from Monika Hostler: “It’s also about first calling people out for sexist jokes about women and girls. It’s not just the intervening act, it’s about all of the things that lead up to it. We degrade and oversexualize women and girls and this contributes to sexual violence. We must be consistent to get society to understand how sexist jokes are connected to sexual violence.” So don’t fidget uncomfortably. Intervene and make a social and cultural change.

Consent: Trying to peel back the layers of Silence and Shame about Sex and Love from a survivor

Once, I was in a hyper consensual relationship. It started with a discussion in Dewick. “So when’s the last time you’ve been tested?” As simple as that. It moved on to “I want to do this. Do you?” <- Insert sexual act. The dirty talk was fantastic and it really got me going. We talked about sex on walks, on the T, during a meal, and even while doing the dirt. We were comfortable with each other’s language and bodies which created a very intimate relationship.

Let’s be real, though. That does not work for everyone and I might not even do that again. In the heat of the moment, a question might turn you off or even be triggering to some folk. We all express what we want or don’t want in different ways, but that’s where the trouble is. One person’s line might be “Condom?” while another might think they get their point across by using more tongue. Until we become comfortable with a sexual partner there is a lot of uncertainty about how everyone can have a good and enjoyable sexy time together. Consent cannot be assumed and is best to receive when you know yourself and your personal and sexual boundaries.

Knowing yourself and setting boundaries is no easy task. There is a lot of shame surrounding sex and pleasing ourselves so much so that we don’t want to talk about it with the person we desire to have sex with. Breaking boundaries could even be liberating or you might set boundaries later in the night for acts that you might have done earlier. Regardless, if it is a one night stand or a long-term partner, learning about what you want and being able to express that can lead to some awesome sex whether that means cunnilingus, intimate cuddling, penetration, or the best smooching session ever.
We should all be aiming for safe sex which is much more than latex. Before hand it is important to discuss STI prevention and for you breeders, contraception, but it is also important to talk about what is ok for your body. Maybe later you change your mind. That’s ok too. Communication is the best way to stay safe, even if it is uncomfortable. And at first it can definitely be uncomfortable but hopefully it makes the sex more enjoyable. You are allowed to talk about your desires but you must also acknowledge that you are not entitled to them. You have the right to ask but do not feel embarrassed if you get turned down. There maybe be other things your partner wants to do. Just fucking ASK!

Sexual Violence Resources

Below is a list of resources available for people who have experienced sexual trauma or for their loved ones. Please do not hesitate to ask for help. Many of these services are available 24/7, and are here specifically for you. For a complete outline of Tufts Sexual Misconduct Policy, please go to oeo.tufts.edu/policies-and-procedures/sexual-misconduct-policy/

Tufts Resources (Confidential)

Ears for Peers is confidential peer support hotline of Tufts University, available from 7 PM to 7 AM. They can help to provide you with resources about the sexual misconduct policy.

Tufts Counseling and Mental Health Services can provide you with free and confidential counseling services. 617.627.3360. In addition you can reach the on-call counselor by calling TUPD.

Tufts Health Services can provide you with free STI testing, and emergency contraception after an assault. They cannot collect evidence, however, they can provide you with a cab voucher to take you to a hospital with SANE nurses. 617.627.3350

The University Chaplains are also available as confidential resources on campus 617.627.3427

Non-Tufts Resources

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center offers a 24-hour hotline, free counseling, and legal support. 800.841.8371

Victim Rights Law Center offers free legal support to college students with experiences of sexual trauma. 617.399.6720

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network offers a free 24-hour online hotline 800.656.4673

Fenway Community Health Center offers medical resources for LGBTQ individuals. 617.267.0900

Tufts Resources (Not-Confidential)

Tufts University Police Department operates as the police force for the Medford/ Somerville Campus. (617) 627-6911 or x66911 for emergency

Tufts Office of Equal Opportunity conducts investigations of sexual misconduct on all Tufts campuses.

The Sexual Misconduct Prevention Specialist (Alexandra Donovan) is responsible for coordinating education on issues of sexual misconduct across Tufts’ campuses. Alexandra.Donovan@tufts.edu, Location: Basement of Health Services
Veganism

Veganism confuses a lot of people. How can someone expect to be healthy without meat protein and dairy calcium? What does it matter if we use eggs and milk, when the animals produce those things anyway? And why in the world would someone ever deprive themselves of such wonderful foods as cheese and steak?

These are all really good questions. Allow me to answer them.

1. Nutrition
The short answer is, plants have all the protein and calcium that you need, provided that you don’t eat the same thing all the time. And as Tufts students, especially those of us on a meal plan, getting that diverse diet is not hard at all.

2. The animals
The supermajority of eggs and milk used in the United States come from factory farms that are terrible for animals and the environment. According to the UN report Livestock’s Long Shadow livestock are responsible for 18% of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, more than all other forms of transportation put together.

3. The taste
After eating a big ‘ol three-bean burger with guacamole, ketchup, mustard tomato and onion, a side of seasoned fries with BBQ sauce, some vegetables dipped in hummus, and a slice of apple pie in a margarine-based crust, I couldn’t care less about meat and dairy. And best of all, vegan meals never leave you feeling bloated.

Being Vegan At Tufts:
If you have a meal plan, being a vegan at Tufts is incredibly easy. Both Dewick and Carm have vegan selections every day, marked with a “VG”. Outside of a meal plan veganism can be more expensive, but it can be easily managed with a little creative thinking.

In the area:
I love Boston’s vegan restaurants. True Bistro, Veggie Planet, Veggie Galaxy, Grasshopper; I have taken my non-vegan friends to all of them, and they have all said it was some of the best food they’ve ever tasted.

True Bistro- Vegetarian Bistro
1153 Broadway, Somerville
(617) 627-9000

Grasshopper- Vegan Asian Food
1 North Beacon St, Allston, MA
(617) 254-8883

Veggie Galaxy- Vegan Diner & Bakery
450 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA
(617) 497-1513

More:
www.HappyCow.net (Search “Boston”)
Drugs

If you’re going to do drugs at Tufts, here’s a few tips:

If you’re going to smoke, it’s better to do it off campus. Marijuana is decriminalized in Massachusetts, meaning that up to an ounce will only get you a $100 citation, and a first offense won’t go on your record.

Whenever smoking outside, use rolling papers so you can throw it away quickly, and just bring what you’re going to smoke. Make sure to do it away from buildings and in a place where you can see people coming. If you get caught you’ll usually just get a warning.

The most risky place to smoke is in the dorms, but if you’re going to, take precautions: It takes a fair bit of smoke to set off a detector, but if you’re worried you can bag it. Just know bagging and tampering are a federal offense and will get you directly onto probation 2. If you bag, always unbag right away when you’re done, just in case there’s an actual fire later. Put a towel at your door, spray some febreze, and blow out the window. Keep your private drug use private because if it’s not disturbing the people around you, chances are they won’t even know you’re doing it.

Tufts has both a Good Samaritan policy and an Amnesty policy, meaning that if someone needs medical assistance because of drugs or alcohol neither they nor the person who calls for help will get in trouble. So always make the call.

Read the rest of the Tufts policy on drugs here, it’s short and worth your time:

Alcohol

Know your limit: Early in the year, pick out a good night to a) drink some alcohol but b) not chug it all in at once and c) be in the presence of good, trustworthy company. Size up your tolerance shot by shot at a reasonable pace (the recommended rate to achieve functional drunkenness is one 1.5 oz shot of 40% alcohol per hour but rarely do people follow that, so find a pace you’re comfortable with). Note until what stage you feel good and stick to that limit: People who drink until they puke, get violent, or cry hysterically are no fun for anyone, and if they’re at a Tufts event they threaten to get it cancelled. (RIP Naked Quad Run).

Make a plan, stick with it: Know how much you want to drink before you start and before you get to a dark loud and/or alcohol filled environment. Then tell your friends so they can help you stick with it.

Eat something: Unlike most foodstuffs and many liquids, a significant part of the alcohol you take can already be absorbed in the stomach, which means an empty stomach is more susceptible to efficient alcohol absorption, which means you will get drunk faster if you’re hungry. Eat something before a night out; even better if that something contains fats. If you’re in a real hurry, one teaspoon of butter would be a great help.

Get your own drinks: As a rule of thumb, don’t take drinks from strangers or people you don’t know well enough: you never know where they get it from or what they put into the cup or punch. Date-rape drugs, hallucinogens, and gross things are all possibilities, and open you up to real possibilities of a sexual assault, regardless of gender. It’s not worth the risk.

…and take them with you
Unless there’s a buddy nearby who can take care of your cup, if you can’t bring it along, finish it up or throw it out.
You can always come back for another glass, but you can’t come back on a drink with something extra slipped into it. Plus, in near complete darkness and furniture that won’t stay in place, there’s a chance you will pick up somebody else’s drink, which would be awkward.

Don’t drive when you drink: You’ve heard this a billion times, but it never hurts to be extra careful when an automobile (or anything that takes up fuel, really) is involved. Get yourself a designated driver or grab a cab – better be safe than sorry, right?

You can stop whenever you want: Nobody, repeat, NOBODY has the right to force you to drink or do anything without your consent. Drinking games can be fun, so are drinking competitions; however, when you start feeling uncomfortable with the amount of alcohol you’re taking in, know that you can say ‘no’ and people must respect your decision. Drinking capabilities don’t say anything about you as a person. In that vein, don’t taunt or force people to drink more than they want to – it’s not fair game.

Lie on your side…when you’re horizontal and mad drunk. If your body doesn’t like the alcohol, that position will help direct the vomit sideways, reducing the chance of you choking from whatever you ate before. A high pillow might be of good service too. Also, if you need to take care of a drunken friend, turn him/her to the side as well.

WHERE TO DRINK: Dorms (KNOW YOUR RA’s), Frats (go with friends and read up on the consent section of this guide), and, while it’s warm, outside! House Parties also are an option that require you to be respectful. Consistent non-greek options include Arts House, International House, La Casa and Crafts House, but the list is endless.

NOTE: many of the places above are dominated by white males. If you’re sick of that, or just want to kick back and watch a movie over free food, check out the group of six – they are the Africana center, Asian American Center, International Center, Latino Center, LGBT Center and Women’s Center.

Administration
The Tufts administration would prefer if you didn’t drink or use drugs – it’s a massive liability and a horrible statistic. They don’t want any lawsuits and more importantly they don’t want any prospective applicants/parents turned off by the idea of mass consumption. If you’re going to drink, it’s smart to know what the consequences could be. I recommend reading the alcohol section of the student handbook: http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/documents/tuftsStudentHandbook.pdf

Tufts University Police Department (TUPD)
There are only a dozen or so officers on campus and most of them have no desire to write you up or even deal with you for that matter, so make it easy for them: Try not to be belligerent, don’t drink from an open container on pro row before you’re 21, don’t get caught on roofs, and don’t smoke in your dorm without hiding it well. If you avoid those four things you’ll likely avoid the police. Or, if you’d rather not avoid those four things, the best advice I can give is to get to know them. If you have a conversation, be sincerely nice and offer some gesture of goodwill, they will begin to like or at least tolerate you.

Tufts Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)
They offer a good service, fast rides and immediate care. Just know that if you require an ambulance from this campus you get a type B violation right away (see alcohol policy in the link above). That means when you are terribly drunk, overdosed, or just hurt while drinking, your friends are left to gauge how badly you need medical help, because if they call and you’re not actually in that bad shape then they just got you in trouble for nothing. Here the administration’s policy has often caused students to push the boundaries on life or death situations. If a friend is in bad shape, but not to the point where an ambulance would be required, one option is to call a cab and send them Lawrence Memorial Hospital or Somerville Hospital, which neither the school nor your friend’s parents will find out about.
Alcohol provision to minors
If you're 21, congratulations – no more hiding for you! However, that's only for your consumption. If you're going to play the middleman, be warned that MA law prohibits alcohol furnishing to minors unless the provider is a parent or grandparent (find the whole deal here: https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXX/Chapter138/Section34). Violation of this law, if found, results in up to one year in jail and/or up to a $2,000 fine. If you're an international student, your F1 visa could be in grave danger. Also, Tufts will suspend you. It's your choice, but think real hard before you go down that road.

Cool Clubs and Spaces

Action for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP)
ASAP, or Action for Sexual Assault Prevention, is a club at Tufts that works to spread consent awareness, distribute information on rape and sexual assault, and educate the school population on the sexual assault policy and resources on campus. Our goal is to end rape culture and promote consent and healthy relationships among young people. We are currently involved in various consent awareness projects, including student videos, a new ASAP website, new consent posters for campus, and much more. We hope to be and to create a safe space for survivors and allies. We also advocate to improve resources for sexual assault survivors on campus, University practices in sexual assault cases, and education and preventative services on campus. We're always eager for more members to join in the movement to end rape culture at Tufts! Go to www.tuftsasap.org or email asaptufts@gmail.com to get involved.

Consent Culture Network (CCN)
The Consent Culture Network was created as a coalition between student groups all over campus that want to create a culture where sex is an act of enthusiastic consent, not of silence, coercion or trauma. In other words, the group's goal is to smash rape culture by building a consent culture in its place, starting right here at Tufts. Two years ago we developed a consent workshop that we were invited to teach at clubs, fraternities, and sororities all over campus. That year we sang consent themed songs and handed out “Ways to ask consent” cards at Winter Bash (a school dance). Later we joined with Action for Sexual Assault Prevention to make the video “Asking for Kale” (now on YouTube) to help explain issues of consent and victim-blaming. We hope to continue all of this and more this year, and we'd love your help! You can email nathaniel.matthews@tufts.edu for more info.
Asian American Alliance (AAA)
Our mission is to bring all members of the Tufts community together by fostering an environment for instituting political changes concerning Asians and Asian Americans, enhancing social interactions among all students, and creating a better understanding of Asian and Asian American identity at Tufts. Interested students can contact tuftsasianamericanalliance@gmail.com for more information. Check out our website and facebook page.

Pan-African Alliance (PAA)
The umbrella organization of the university’s cultural groups that advocate for the concerns of students of color. The purpose of the Pan-African Alliance is to promote solidarity and awareness among members of the Black community and teach others about the Black experience. The Alliance provides social, educational, cultural and recreational activities to help enhance the quality of student life at Tufts. The Pan-African Alliance serves as a voice by which the concerns of Black students can be articulated to the university as a whole. Most importantly, the Alliance provides for a cultural and spiritual link to Africa. PAA is open to everyone, but it is not a space for white education. That means if you are a white person, you are expected to taking responsibility for your own learning and checking your own privilege. Decolonizing one's mind is a long, on-going process that we are all in the middle of, but PAA needs white people who are prepared to be effective, not just well-intentioned, allies. Interested students can contact tufts.pan.african.alliance@gmail.com for more information. Check out our facebook page.

Crafts House Co-op
The Crafts House is a cooperative living and learning household located on the Tufts Medford campus. We are an anti-oppressive community of activists, artists, musicians, engineers, creators, innovators and scholars that collectively operate the Crafts Center—the university’s arts and crafts makerspace. In addition to volunteering our time in the Crafts Center, we share weekly household responsibilities of cooking, food shopping, and cleaning. We buy food as a house, and we eat communally the (normally vegetarian) dinners we all take turns preparing five nights a week. Between the house and center, we also host a ton of events each year, from folk concerts, craft workshops and barbecues to absurdly themed costume parties—most recently a David Bowie glam rock masquerade. So join us for dinners at 6pm, Sunday through Thursday, or anytime you’re feeling the need for some glitter and facepaint! Check out our website and facebook page.

Crafts Center
The Crafts Center is TCU-funded, student-run arts and crafts makerspace at Tufts University. It is located on campus in the basement of Lewis Hall, with the entrance on the side of Lewis facing Tilton. Although this kick-ass art space is run primarily by members of the Crafts House, anyone can apply to join and help volunteer! Members of the Crafts Center are dedicated to supporting and promoting the teaching, learning and practicing of craft knowledge and techniques, including woodworking, ceramics, sewing, soap making, button making, jewelry making and screen printing, among other things. We offer workshops throughout the semester and are open 5 to 6 days a week for anyone in the Tufts community to use for FREE! Come check us out!

Check out our website and facebook page.
Hapa
As the only space on campus dedicated to the multiracial experience, our goal is to create and promote a community for the mixed population at Tufts while spreading awareness about the issues faced by this unique and rapidly-growing demographic. We host frequent social events including potlucks, movie nights, and mixers, as well as more serious stuff like academic discussions with mixed faculty and staff and events with other universities. If you’re looking for a fun and welcoming space to meet new people and talk identity, race, and food (we really love talking about/eating food), come join us!
We’re unaffiliated with the Center of Six and independently run by a board of mixed students looking to fill an important gap in campus discourse, preferably while having a good time and a good meal. Whether you’re looking to make changes on campus or to celebrate and explore your background, stop by one of our events or e-mail our co-president at Zoe.Uvin@tufts.edu. Facebook: /TuftsHapa

Mujeres
BECAUSE we are women of color and allies

BECAUSE we believe in the strength, power, courage, and beauty of all women

BECAUSE we recognize the challenges that we face as women of color, including misogynistic violence against women, discrimination, sexism, classism, homophobia, and racism

BECAUSE we reject the overly sexualized and subjugated images of Latinas imposed on us by societal institutions and media outlets

We propose a free, open and safe space for all women to come together to fight for and appreciate the interests of Latinas through honest dialogue, campus exchange, community outreach, and critical analysis of our roles as Latinas. For further inquiries please contact lesly.rueltas@tufts.edu.

Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA)
Queer or questioning? Lesbian or gay? Bisexual or pansexual? Trans* or genderqueer? Or maybe you are just interested in being an informed and effective ally? There are many options at Tufts to explore and discuss these identities.
One of them is the Queer Straight Alliance, which serves as a general forum for dialogue and discussion, community support and social interaction. QSA meets every week to discuss issues relevant to different facets of the queer community, including sexuality and spirituality, fetishism and racism, and the role of allies within the queer movement. QSA also hosts an annual drag show with both student and professional performers (including Jujubee from RuPaul’s Drag Race) as well as Tufts’ annual Coming Out Day Rally.
While QSA is a great place for discussion about the social aspect of queer identity, the group has not recently been about the political implications of queer identity. Currently, there is a lack of this awareness and activism in most of Tufts’ queer groups, but there are many other activist groups (almost all of which are mentioned in this guide) where you can find the radical queer activists at Tufts! Check out our facebook page.

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)
Students for a Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) at Tufts is a club for students who want to fight against unjust policies and consequences of the War on Drugs. Our meetings involve planning club events and discussing current topics in the war. Club members in the past have been a major presence during meetings designed to create a medical amnesty policy at Tufts, and have worked towards the decriminalization of marijuana on campus. Past speakers brought to Tufts by SSDP have included Jack Cole, founder of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and award-winning documentary filmmaker Kevin Booth. If you want make your campus—and your country—a place with sensible policies, while creating the friendships and memories that will fill your college experience with sunshine and love, please contact ssdp.tufts@gmail.com.
First Generation Council
What is the definition of a 1st generation college student? Well, on paper in order to be reviewed by universities as a 1st gen. college student both parents did not receive his/her associate’s degree (or any type of degree actually) in the states. This is a very limiting definition and many other students may identify with being a 1st gen. college student even if it isn’t marked on paper.

The struggles of a 1st gen. college student are real. Transitioning from home, filling out the financial aid application, picking classes, what major is right for you and more are very new concepts to you. Tufts has many resources out there for students who need them but it is the student’s job to go seeking for these resources. In order to facilitate and make 1st generation college students’ lives easier, a group of students came together to create the 1st Generation College Student Council.

The council is still very new and in the working but certain things that we aspire to create this year are:

- Having Financial Aid/ w2 Workshops consisting of students and faculty coming together so we can go through our own forms but be together if we have any questions
- Other workshops such as study abroad, alumni, career services but specifically for 1st gen college students
- 1st generation college student dinners in order to celebrate our achievements but also as a bonding for our community
- Mini celebrations for graduates as well as freshmen
- Creating the council as a student group
- Creating a website that includes financial aid help, other links that would be helpful for 1st generation college students
- Mentorship programs with the welcome project which has Youth Aspirations Program and has a program for 1st generation college students in high school
- Connecting with other colleges that have 1st generation college student groups to expand our network and support

There are going to be many new experiences and the council is here for any support that is needed. We will have our name out there and make sure that we reach out to the student body, 1st gen. or not.

Divest
We are not a student club, and we are not your typical environmental group. Tufts Divest is a collective of world changers and earth warriors, taking a revolutionary approach to tackle the crisis of global climate changes and climate injustice.

Did you know Tufts invests at least $70 million dollars in the fossil fuel industry? These fossil fuel companies are a rogue force…they currently have 5 times as many fossil fuel resources in their reserves as we know are safe to burn to avoid runaway climate change. Tufts invests its $1.5 billion dollar endowment recklessly, by putting it in the very companies who threaten a livable and sustainable future on earth.

Higher education institutions like Tufts exist to further the human condition and model good global citizenship. Tufts educates future leaders, and employs top scholars and scientists to research issues such as climate change. Yet, while investing in our future, Tufts simultaneously invests its money in corporations that threaten our future and the future of every other human being on earth.

Tufts Divest is a non-hierarchical, anti-oppressive organization. We have open meetings and encourage anyone who feels called to come and lend your energy to this fight. This fall, we will be planning teach-ins and rallies, holding a campus-wide referendum on divestment, meeting with Tufts officials, and participating in the greater climate justice movement beyond our campus. To learn more, go to tuftsdivest.com or email tuftsdivest@gmail.com.

Check out our website, twitter, and facebook page.

Tufts Freethought Society
The Tufts Freethought Society is an intentional and inclusive community at Tufts of humanists, atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers, the nonreligious, the spiritually questioning, and friends. We strive to build a safe space for the nonreligious and for the spiritually questioning.

Freethought as a community can be hard to describe, but that fluidity itself is something we value. It might be easier to talk about what we do: We hold weekly discussion meetings on Thursdays at 7:30pm where we talk about a wide variety of topics, from science and politics
to ethics and spirituality. But we're not just all talk -- we hang out at jam sessions, movie nights, community dinners, hiking retreats, and parties throughout the year. We believe in coming together around service, and work with several organizations that serve the local community.

And while we're not explicitly an activist community, many of our members come from various corners of campus activism and we're social justice-minded when the time calls. We are also committed to giving a voice to the nonreligious in institutions around campus, and along with our secularism, we have a firm commitment to pluralism. To that effect, we are active in organizing and participating in interfaith work with other religious and philosophical communities at Tufts.

So if you're looking for a community to fall back on, where you can talk and learn and share in values and action, feel free to shoot us a message or just drop by one of our meetings!

-- TFS (tuftsfreethoughtsociety@gmail.com) (www.tuftsfreethought.org) (facebook.com/tuftsfreethought)

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)
Every generation has their battles to fight and win. Our parents fought against the Apartheid regime in South Africa, and succeeded. Our grandparents fought against Jim Crow. Their parents fought against the hydrogen bomb. Today, we once again come together to Boycott, Divest from, and Sanction the Israeli state until it extends equal rights to Palestinians wherever they reside, whether in the diaspora as refugees, in the occupied territories, or in ‘Israel proper’. On campuses all over the world, students have come together in outrage at the $3 billion of no-strings-attached aid the US government supplies to Israel to fuel its war machine, military occupation, and settler-colonial system of segregation. In this vein, in solidarity with hundreds of other campuses across the globe, we designate one week of our academic year “Israeli Apartheid Week”. We host speakers, hold demonstrations, and build momentum for our various campaigns to end all facets of our institution's complicity in Israel's oppression of Palestinians. Join the Students for Justice in Palestine, a diverse group of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Arab, American, International, Gay and Straight students in demanding unequivocal equal rights for all, regardless of race/ethnicity, religion, gender, class, or sexual orientation. Check out our website, twitter, and facebook page.

Tufts Labor Coalition (TLC)
When many students think of a campus they think only of students and professors. They often forget many other people are vital to this community. Tufts Labor Coalition (TLC) is a student group dedicated to working with all members of the community, including the janitors, dining hall workers and other tufts employees. This group arranges social events that include students and campus workers. TLC also works to ensure fair working conditions on campus and encourage all students to respect the employees that make the campus run smoothly. Recently TLC has expanded its goals to include global labor concerns. In past years they started petitioning for Tufts to affiliate with the Worker's Rights Consortium (WRC), which would ensure that no merchandise sold by Tufts was made in sweat shop conditions. TLC plans to continue to work to make this a reality. https://www.facebook.com/jumbojanitors

Students Acting for Gender Equality (SAGE)
SAGE, Students Acting for Gender Equality, is a collaborative based out of the Women's Center that meets weekly to discuss gender-based issues at Tufts and in the Boston area. SAGE seeks to create a feminist space on campus, and while you absolutely do NOT have to identify as a feminist to be part of SAGE, we ask that everyone recognizes the ways that oppressions (all the –isms) affect our lives. At our meetings we get to know each other, we discuss current events through a social justice lens, and we take action to change problematic structures at Tufts. In the past we've worked on getting open housing, rewriting the sexual assault policy, improving student relationships with Tufts police, and more equal representation for women artists at Spring Fling.
For freshmen and all new students, we have a really cool First-Year Program called “SAGE advice to new students”. This is a weekly peer-mentoring group where we discuss all kinds of topics: transitioning to college, Tufts campus, being a feminist in college, hooking up, alcohol, homesickness, classes, etc. The group is open to ALL genders of course! It’s a fun way to meet other new students who might have similar interests as you, meet upperclassmen and ask them whatever questions you have, drink coffee and eat snacks, or even just vent about your roommate. Come by the Women’s Center (free coffee, seriously) to ask about either SAGE or SAGE advice or just show up to a meeting! Anyone is welcome at any point during the year.

**VOX: Voices for Choice:** *Feminism, college, and sex… oh my!*

VOX: Voices for Choice is the Planned Parenthood affiliated student organization at Tufts. We work to promote sexual health, advocate for reproductive rights and destigmatize sexual pleasure here on Tufts’ campus as well as in the greater community. During the 2012-2013 academic year, VOX and its 40 core members organized multiple events that drew in between 200-400 students. From hosting OhMegan’s sexual pleasure workshop to organizing the annual Sex Fair in the Campus Center, VOX’s often controversial events have effectively pushed back against societal pressures to silence honest and open sexual discourse. VOX meets once a week in the Women’s Center to address a wide variety of topics including but in no way limited to sexual health resources on campus and in the surrounding area, sexual pleasure education, consent, rape culture, pro-choice initiatives, STIs, access to birth control, hook-up culture, and gender. VOX attempts to create a safer space for students to organize, learn, meet new people and share knowledge, with no oppressive language or behavior tolerated at meetings. New members to VOX have equal power to influence group decisions and propose/organize brand new projects with funding and the support of other VOX members. The revolution starts at home…which is why we at VOX view sexual health, knowledge, and empowerment as foundational to a just society. So come on by a meeting where you will find good people and goodies including free snacks, coffee, condoms, and lube. Check out our website, twitter, and facebook page.

**AppleJam**

AppleJam is Tufts’ own student-run, DIY booking agency, and the hub of the campus music scene. We bring up and coming bands and musicians to Tufts and give Tufts bands a chance to play on campus. While we first united to book punk and hardcore acts, our shows pair gypsy funk with surf rock, R&B with shoegaze. We partner with venues such as Crafts House and Fort Warner to offer an alternative social experience geared towards obsessive music-geeks and casual fans alike. Come to our meetings to help with booking, share your music with us, or join our ever-expanding, always incestuous milieu of bands.

See you at the show,

AppleJam Productions (applejamproductions@gmail.com)

**RADICAL PROFESSORS**

Sáed Atshan (Anthropology, Peace and Justice Studies)
Amahl Bishara (Anthropology)
Sarah Pinto (Anthropology)
Alexander Blanchette (Anthropology)
Kamran Rastegar (Arabic, ILVS)
Adriana Zavala (Art History)
Jonathan Garlick (Biology)
Marianne Wolf (Child Development)
Sergiy Kryatov (Chemistry)
John Lurz (English)
Modhumita Roy (English)
Elizabeth Ammons (English)
Greg Thomas (Africana Studies, English)
Anna Hardman (Econ)
H. Adlai Murdoch (French)
David Proctor (History)

Kris Manjapra (History)
Peter Winn (History)
Jeanne Penvenne (History)
Peniel Joseph (History)
Gary Leupp (History)
Charles Inouye (Japanese)
Jean Wu (American Studies)
Lisa Lowe (American Studies, English)
Zbigniew Nitecki (Mathematics)
Nancy Bauer (Philosophy)
Joseph Walser (Religion)
Kata Hull (Studio Art)
Ujayyant Chakravorty (Economics)
Ben Shapiro (Computer Science, Education)
Penn Loh (Urban and Environmental Planning)
Why the Disorientation Guide?

BECAUSE Tufts won’t tell you everything you need to know.

BECAUSE every upperclassment has said “I wish I knew that as a freshman” about something at some point.

BECAUSE if you ever think “What the hell is this place? Do I belong here?” You are NOT alone.

Brought to you by:

Tufts Disorientation Guide
tuftsdisorientation.org
tuftsdisorientation@gmail.com