“Let your life speak,” we told our applicants. And they did.

A Southern poet set the standard. “I am the whimsy of cotton candy stranded in the steamy burrows of West Tennessee,” she said. Sometimes a few words captured a key idea about identity: “I’m a bit Goth,” “I’m a gay Socialist,” “I’m a failed environmentalist,” and “I was the 6’3” red lobster on the Santa Monica Pier.” The reporter for ABC’s “Teen Kids News” was cheery: “My life would not speak,” she said, “it would laugh!” Another was emphatic: “I’m an outspoken Dominican who will give my all to Tufts: my heritage, my language, and even my big hoop earrings.” And, of course, the class has its share of characters: “I’m a rock star in a suit and tie, the Red Hot Chili Peppers in Frank Sinatra’s clothes.”

Places as different as “a three-bedroom Cape at the end of Riverside Drive,” a Lutheran rectory in Montana, an American embassy in Africa, and a Boston homeless shelter shaped the world view of the 1,317 incoming students. “My family is like a swarm of bees in a hive,” noted the Latina engineer from East Boston, “everyone colliding and making noise,” while a Vermonter documented bucolic roots: “I come from a place where there’s more maple syrup than diversity.” A tiny flock of hens roam the courtyard of an environmentalist’s green urban home while the son of a Cape Cod funeral director “was raised among the dead.”

Like its predecessors, the Class of 2014 is distinguished by excellence as it enrols with an academic profile that matches last year’s record highs: 85 percent graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class with mean SAT scores of 705 Critical Reading, 712 Math, and 714 Writing. A pre-med from Worcester hopes to meet “fellow intellectually restless people,” and he will encounter peers whose interests are as diverse as marine archeology; confidence levels in children; security issues in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia; “the archetypal human consciousness” in the Greek and Norse mythological pantheons; energy conservation; the impact of Scottish immigrants on the Bahamas; and the implications of diet on mental illness. “Chemical mischief” inspires a home-schooled scientist from New Hampshire while a Japanese quant jock hopes to develop sustainable economic growth in war-torn countries. And, of course, many are blissfully undecided: “I’d like to see where my studies take me.”

Diversity is a clear hallmark of the university’s 155th class, which matriculates from 886 high schools in 45 American states, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 39 nations. While Massachusetts sent the most new students to Tufts, a record-setting 138 Californians took their place in Medford-Somerville and eight percent were raised abroad. A third of the class is Roman Catholic or Jewish but another third indicated an agnostic or atheist outlook. Twenty-six percent are Americans of color, 17 percent speak a language other than English at home, and nearly 11 percent are first-generation college bound. China, South Korea, India, and Turkey are the largest foreign delegations but many freshmen offer a truly “global” heritage that resonates with Tufts’ international aura. “I am the product of globalization and trans-nationalism,” a multi-ethnic student reported. A native Swede via Oman, a Kenyan feminist from the first graduating class at the African Leadership Academy, and a Cuban-American raised in Japan underscore the idea that identities and ethnicities are elastic.

Freshmen hail from hometowns as varied as Vienna, Virginia and Vienna, Austria; Tulsa and Sioux Falls; Jerusalem and Ramallah. One of the 87 representatives of the Garden State offered a clarifying comment about her upbringing: “I’m the non-Jersey Shore, non-Sopranos side of New Jersey.” While the majority were raised in suburbia, the rural imprint of places like Derby, Kansas and Prospect, Kentucky is also clear: “I am the child of three parents,” one proudly said, “Mom, Dad, and Western Massachusetts.” A Mainer spent his first 13 years in a Yupik Eskimo community in Alaska while a ranch near Elko, Nevada taught one new Jumbo to “silently stalk elk, master duck calls, and catch fish in a sturdy cabin in the mountains.” Geographic origin matters.

Tufts welcomes Harry Potter (from New Hampshire, not Hogwarts) and Hannah from Montana; a spoken-word poet from inner-city Chicago; and an engineer from Shanghai who has a patent pending for a light-up umbrella. The class includes 70 valedictorians and 37 National Merit Scholars; the New Mexico State Fair winner for “Best Scones and Danish”; a singer-songwriter renowned on the New York music scene (and I-Tunes!); the governor of Virginia Boys’ State and Iowa’s Student Council state president; a volunteer firefighter from Martha’s Vineyard and a chicken farmer from Plantation, Florida. Ninety-six are the sons and daughters of Tufts graduates. “Why Tufts?” a double legacy asked. “Without Tufts I would not be here.”

Nearly 40 percent qualified for need-based financial aid, and socioeconomic diversity is a defining hallmark of the new class. The youngest child of a single mother worked 20 hours a week at a fruit stand during high school to help make ends meet. She noted: “I always had what I needed and occasionally what I wanted.” Several were raised in foster care. “I lived in a car, in a trailer, in multiple tiny rooms, on a couch, in many family friends’ houses and various low-income households,” one reported.

It was the university’s most selective year since 2001, with an acceptance rate of 24 percent, and personal qualities were often determining factors in an admission decision. We asked each applicant, “Who are you?” and the personality of the incoming class reflects their varied responses to this simple query:

To see Dean Coffin’s speech to the class of 2015, check our Web site: admissions.tufts.edu
They are affable. “I’d get an 800 on the laughter subject test if such a test were offered.”

Identities are fluid. “I used to be a massive metal head, and I still have the t-shirts, long hair, and encyclopedic knowledge of obscure rock bands to back it.”

They dream. As a high school student, a local resident worked 20 hours a week for Tufts Dining Services in Carmichael Hall. “One day I hope to be a part of Tufts,” he told us, “and be a participant rather than a spectator.”

They are verbal. “I could never, wouldn’t even if I could, ever stay quiet. I will be me. I will argue, I will be passionate, I will make things work.”

They are skeptics. “I am an athlete-activist who is skeptical of human motives but idealistic for revolutionary change.”

They are inventive. A New Yorker concocted “Itai’s Almost-Perfect Cherry Ice Pops.”

They are true to themselves (and stylish, too). “I love hats,” announced a fedora-adorned San Franciscan. “They represent the freedom to be different, to be whoever and whatever I want to be.”

They are social. “I was once told that I would be the perfect person to talk to at a cocktail party.”

They are selfless. A pacifist Quaker from D.C. plans to join the U.S. Army Special Forces “to do this fearful thing so those I love and those I do not know will have peace and liberty.”

They are successful. Success on the sea distinguishes the member of the U.S. and Dutch national sailing teams as well as the two-time national and North American sailing champion, while Nevada’s state champion in alpine skiing, New England’s amateur champion in disc golf (think ultimate Frisbee), and members of the Palestinian national equestrian and Turkish national snowboard teams will enhance Tufts’ athletic prowess.

They are endearing. “I am the girl who gets targeted by kiosk workers at the mall.”

Contrast appeals to them. “I am Unitarian Universalist with a lesbian mother and a best friend who’s a conservative Republican.”

They challenge authority even when they are part of it. “I am the kind of person who is student body vice president and is also starting an unofficial anarchy club with another member of the student council.” An Eagle Scout from Connecticut concurred: “Irreverence is the fuel for change.”

They are principled. A Miami Latina left her Catholic high school because “I was told to believe things that conflicted with my idea of being a good Catholic.”

They are self-deprecating: “I am that gay kid who sadly does not know how to look FABULOUS….”


They are quirky. An Ohioan has used the same pencil for four years while a non-conformist Eagle Scout drives a mini-van with bean bags instead of seats.

And our mascot appeals to them. “Elephants are family-oriented, share lifelong bonds with each other and are highly intellectual,” one said. Now he’s a Jumbo, too.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Coffin
Dean of Undergraduate Admissions
THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Tufts uses the Common Application. Everything you need to apply, including our required supplement, is available through their Web site. Admission to Tufts University is based on a number of factors, including academic background (course selection, grades, and standardized testing in the form of either the SAT with two subject exams OR the ACT with writing*), extracurricular involvements, two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher in an academic subject and one from a counselor), personal statement, and responses to our supplement. Students may also request a local alumni interview once they have submitted their application.

While rigor of curriculum, grades, and testing are important components of what we consider, they do not tell the whole story. The admissions staff at Tufts evaluates candidates looking for fit and match, as well as evidence of intellectual curiosity and a sense of engagement with the world around them.

* For students applying to the School of Engineering who opt to submit the SAT with subject tests, Math Level I or II and either the Physics or Chemistry examination should be submitted.

FINANCIAL AID

All of our financial aid is awarded on the basis of financial need, as determined through the analysis of family resources on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, and family tax returns. Financial aid packages are comprised of a combination of grants, loans, and work study. Tufts meets 100% of the full demonstrated need of all admitted students.

The university does not offer merit aid, with the exception of National Merit Scholarship Corporation awards. ROTC program scholarships also are available.

The Class of 2015 received more than $17 million in total aid, mostly in the form of grants. More than one third of enrolling freshman received an institutional grant.
APPLICATIONS 17,131
ACCEPTANCES 3,746
ACCEPTANCE RATE 21.8%

ACADEMIC PROFILE OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS
MEAN RANK IN CLASS (WHEN AVAILABLE) TOP 5%
PERCENTAGE RANKED IN TOP 10% OF GRADUATING CLASS 90%
MEAN ACT COMPOSITE 32

MID–50% RANGE FOR SAT
CRITICAL READING 690–760
MATH 700–770
WRITING 700–770

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF ENROLLING STUDENTS
EXPECTED ENROLLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2010
OVERALL 1,327
LIBERAL ARTS 1,104
ENGINEERING 223
DOMESTIC STUDENTS OF COLOR 25%
FOREIGN CITIZENS, PERMANENT RESIDENTS & U.S. CITIZENS LIVING OVERSEAS 13%
U.S. STATES REPRESENTED 47
FOREIGN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED 57

SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY
THE CLASS OF 2015 CONTINUES THE UNIVERSITY’S MISSION TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC DIVERSITY AMONG ITS GOALS.
> NEARLY 40% OF THE CLASS ARE FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS
> 11% OF THE CLASS RECEIVED PELL GRANTS
> 10% OF THE CLASS ARE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

Facts and Figures
Full-time faculty 794
Part-time faculty 439
Student/faculty ratio 9:1
Average class size 20
Classes with fewer than 20 students 73%
Classes with fewer than 30 students 85%
Classes with more than 100 students 2%
Tenured and tenured-track faculty holding doctoral degrees 97%
Undergraduate classes taught by professors 99%
Graduation rate 91%
Freshman to sophomore retention rate 97%
"My tour guide told me that at Tufts, it isn’t necessarily about what you’ve already done, it’s about what you are planning to do and how Tufts can help."
"I look at Tufts as an open air ecosystem. I was initially drawn to its passionate students, who seemed to live in a bubble of elephant worship and book-cradling. What separated this school from other sealed worlds, however, was that just as I forgot to lid my third-grade science project, bean sprouts that grew to relatively epic proportions, Tufts was never cut off from the ‘real world.’ I was hooked by the school that shared my desire to help the world, not become estranged from it.”
PROGRAMS OF STUDY

LIBERAL ARTS

MAJORS
AMERICAN STUDIES
ANTHROPOLOGY
APPLIED PHYSICS
ARCHAEOLOGY
ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
ART HISTORY
ASIAN STUDIES
ASTROPHYSICS
BIOCHEMISTRY
BIOLOGY
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
SCIENCES*
BIOPSYCHOLOGY
BIOTECHNOLOGY*
CHEMICAL PHYSICS
CHEMISTRY
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CHINESE
CLASSICAL STUDIES
COGNITIVE AND BRAIN SCIENCES
COMMUNITY HEALTH*
COMPUTER SCIENCE
DRAMA
ECONOMICS
ENGINEERING PSYCHOLOGY
ENGLISH
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES*
FRENCH
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
GEOLGY
GERMAN LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE
GERMAN STUDIES
GREEK
GREEK AND LATIN
HISTORY
INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AND
VISUAL STUDIES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ITALIAN STUDIES
JAPANESE
JUDAIC STUDIES
LATIN
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
MATHEMATICS
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
MUSIC
PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES
PHILOSOPHY
PHYSICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY

MINORS
AFRICA AND THE NEW WORLD
ARABIC
ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
ART HISTORY
ASIAN STUDIES
ASTROPHYSICS
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
BIOTECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CHINESE
COGNITIVE AND BRAIN SCIENCES
COMPUTER SCIENCE
DRAMA
DANCE
ECONOMICS
ENGLISH
ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP
ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICA

PSYCHOLOGY/CLINICAL
CONCENTRATION
QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS
RELIGION
RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN
STUDIES
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE
SOCIOLOGY
SPANISH
WOMEN’S STUDIES

FILM STUDIES
GEOPHYSICS
GERMAN
GREEK
GREEK ARCHAEOLGY
GREEK CIVILIZATION
HISTORY
ITALIAN
JAPANESE
JUDAIC STUDIES
LATIN
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
LATINO STUDIES
LEADERSHIP STUDIES
LINGUISTICS
MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND
MEDIA STUDIES
MATHEMATICS
MEDIATEAL STUDIES
MULTIMEDIA ARTS
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
PHYSICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE
RELIGION
ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY
ROMAN CIVILIZATION
RUSSIAN
SOCIOLOGY
STUDIO ART
URBAN STUDIES
WOMEN’S STUDIES

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

ADDITIONAL DEGREE OPTIONS
ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
BIOTECHNOLOGY*
COMPUTER ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING PHYSICS
ENGINEERING PSYCHOLOGY
ENGINEERING SCIENCE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES*

MINORS
ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
BIOTECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING
CHINESE
COMPUTER SCIENCE
ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP
FRENCH
GEOPHYSICS
GERMAN
HEBREW
ITALIAN
JAPANESE
MULTIMEDIA ARTS
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
ENGINEERING
RUSSIAN
SPANISH

FIVE-YEAR COMBINED-
DEGREE PROGRAMS
TUFTS/NEW ENGLAND
CONSERVATORY: BA OR BS AND
BACHELOR OF MUSIC
TUFTS/SMFA (SCHOOL OF THE
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS): BA OR BS AND BFA

*available as a second major

SEE
In addition to Tufts’ European Center, our campus in Talloires, France, students study at one of ten Tufts foreign study programs: Santiago, Chile; Hangzhou, China; Accra, Ghana; Hong Kong; Kanazawa, Japan; London; Madrid; Oxford; Paris; and Tübingen, Germany—or can choose from hundreds of pre-approved programs in other locations. Over 40% of Tufts students study abroad during their junior year, and there is virtually no limit to the abroad opportunities offered through individual departments and programs.
Chartered in 1852 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Tufts University has grown from three students in its first year to more than 5,000 undergraduates today. The university boasts professional schools in engineering, nutrition, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy was the first exclusively graduate school of international relations founded in the country and remains an international leader in the field. The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service is a national leader in civic education and a conduit for students to address community challenges through the arena of active citizenship.

CAMPUS
Tufts rests on a picturesque 150-acre campus five miles from Boston and just minutes from Davis Square, with its abundance of cafés, live music, restaurants, shops, and galleries.

CLASSES
The student faculty ratio is 9:1 (794 full-time and 439 part-time) and 99% of undergraduate courses are taught by professors. The average class size is 20 and 75% of the classes have fewer students.

RESEARCH
The Summer Scholars program and the Undergraduate Research Fund provide both the opportunity and the funding for annual undergraduate students to engage in original research on their own or in one-on-one mentorship with faculty. The annual Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Symposium serves as a vehicle for students to present their findings to the greater academic community.

MASCOT
Jumbo the elephant, according to Sporting News and Sports Illustrated, ranks as one of the country’s most unique college mascots and is the only college mascot found in Webster’s Dictionary.

LIBRARIES
Tufts’ campuses include six libraries. Tisch Library, on the Medford/Somerville campus, subscribes to more than 300 online databases, 15,000 print journals, and is part of the Boston Library Consortium, which allows students to access materials from 19 colleges and universities.

STUDENT LIFE
70% of Tufts undergraduates live in 40 properties on campus ranging from small houses and traditional dorms to large apartments shared by 3 to 10 students. Both vegetarians and meat lovers satisfy their appetites at our many on-campus dining venues, all of which are committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Students come together over 180 student organizations spanning cultural, political, academic, social, and individual interests.
Athletics

Tufts’ varsity athletics program placed sixth among 310 Division III schools in the 2009–2010 Learfield Sports Directors’ cup, which awards points based on team finishes at NCAA events. A member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), Tufts has 28 varsity teams that embody achievement in the classroom as well as in competition. Some notable highlights:

• The men’s lacrosse team won Tufts’ first-ever NCAA team title, defeating the eight-time champions Salisbury State in the 2010 national championship.

• Women’s tennis advanced to the 2010–2011 NCAA quarterfinals.

• Tufts students also participate in more than 30 intermural and organized intercollegiate club sports, including flag football, dodgeball, ultimate Frisbee, water polo, fencing, and rugby.

For a complete listing of our athletic programs, visit our Web site at www.gotuftsjumbos.com