

What are the best things about attending Tufts University School of Dental Medicine?

At Tufts, the first year is fairly light and lectures are recorded, meaning attendance is not mandatory.

For the fall semester, the major courses are Gross Anatomy, Dental Anatomy, Ethics, Intro to Dental Patient, and Operative Dentistry. For the spring semester, the major courses are Tissue Biology, Tissue Injury/Host Defense, Neuroscience, Cardiovascular, and Gastro-Intestinal. These courses are integrated (all subjects) and taken one at a time in a 4-5 week block meaning for all of your basic science classes there is just one exam at a time which is very nice and condenses your studying. Also taken during this time is Operative Dentistry (cont.), Intro to Dental Patient (cont.), and Oral Health Promotion. The professors teach all the Tufts Health students (Medical, PA, Graduate) so you get good exposure to your basic sciences.

Courses are graded with +/- and all 200 students are ranked. Most people here get either As or Bs and most exams get 1-2 questions dropped at least.

The facilities at Tufts are top-notch and nearly the entire building was recently renovated. Most of the classes are in a gorgeous, brand-new, futuristic building. As far as location, many students love living in Boston, though it is expensive. It is a beautiful and historic city full of plenty to do!

Tufts has a great, strong reputation in the Boston/New England area. We have every dental specialty in-house and have a newly-accredited Dental Anesthesia residency too! Anesthesia was recognized by the ADA in 2019.

What are the worst things about attending Tufts University School of Dental Medicine?

Finding patients can be tough as you have a lot of classmates who also are trying to fulfill their clinical requirements too and looking for the same type of patients.

Tufts is the second-largest dental school in the country, enrolling 200+ students per year. I haven't had a problem with the large class size yet but more classmates means more competition and less of a community-feeling.

If you are trying to specialize, Tufts does not have a high-specialization rate relative to other schools. After graduation, most students start working or attend a one-year general practice residency. A handful of students (around 20%) go onto to any of the specialties. This does not mean you cannot specialize from Tufts but there is less support for doing so.

What do students need to know/What do you wish you knew before attending Tufts University School of Dental Medicine?

Tufts is very expensive and I would go to the cheapest school you get into. I would also look into military scholarships as they are very good for people who don't want to graduate with any debt.

Like many schools, Tufts is a very liberal institution when it comes to politics, policy, and a lot of the faculty. Tufts is very big on affirmative action so take that as you will.

At the end of the day, Tufts is overall a very good school when it comes to preparing you for being a dentist as you learn to drill early only in school and spend two years in clinic working with patients.