



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Associate Director for Student Success and Advising
Office for Student Success and Advising, FIRST Resource Center

April 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

My name is Margot Cardamone, and I'm the Associate Director for Student Success and Advising at Tufts. I have the pleasure of working closely with many of your students in my role supporting two key offices at the University, the [Office for Student Success and Advising \(OSSA\)](#) and the [FIRST Resource Center](#).

The [Office for Student Success and Advising](#) coordinates [Pre-Major Advising](#) in collaboration with our colleagues in Engineering and the SMFA, and with our faculty. It's home to the [Student Success Advisors](#), who work primarily with first- and second-year students, including students who have yet to declare their major. OSSA helps students navigate the transition to college and make academic and co-curricular decisions that foster intellectual and personal growth. We also collaborate closely with the [Academic Advising Deans](#) to make sure students are following an academic trajectory that reflects their passions and interests and keeps them on track to graduate. We frequently have one-on-one conversations with students about balancing their interests and responsibilities and refer students to a variety of resources, supports, and staff members across campus. This ranges from working with the [Office for Campus Life](#) when a student is struggling to find a club or organization they want to join, to connecting with [Time Management & Study Strategies](#) when a student needs new methods for managing their workload. OSSA is a great place for a student to go when they do not know where to start. Please encourage your student to [contact us](#) at any point.

The [FIRST Resource Center](#) officially opened in September 2018 and was founded to support first-generation and low-income students, as well as students with [undocumented status](#). We work closely with the other [identity-based Centers](#) at Tufts to create a community of support on campus and provide resources that break down structural barriers students may be facing. We also host regular programming for our students in collaboration with student groups such as United for Immigrant Justice, Questbridge, and the First Gen Collective, among others. In addition, FIRST runs the Pre-Orientation program [BEAST](#) (Building Engagement and Access for Students at Tufts), which welcomed its inaugural group of

55 students this past August. If we can ever provide support or connect your student with resources, please encourage them to reach out to us: FIRST@tufts.edu or 617-627-2100.

April is a busy month at Tufts as we prepare for graduation and the end of the academic year. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the events and deadlines for your student in the coming weeks.

Advising and Registration:

- **The Advising Period runs from March 25 – April 3**, which means *today is the last scheduled day for students to meet with their Academic Advisor to finalize their courses for the Fall Semester*. If they have additional questions, we encourage first- and second-year students to connect with their Student Success Advisor, and juniors and seniors to meet with their Advising Dean.
- **Registration starts April 9 and runs through April 17**. *Students must meet with their Academic Advisor prior to their registration date and time in order to release the hold on their registration.*

With Finals Exams and Review Boards quickly approaching, and the multitude of social and co-curricular events available this month, we know students can feel overwhelmed and are looking for a place to talk through their priorities. The doors of OSSA and FIRST are always open, and we are eager to connect with your student.

Happy April to you and yours,

Margot Cardamone
Associate Director for Student Success and Advising