What is the University Chaplaincy?

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

The University Chaplain leads the University Chaplaincy team, which currently includes Buddhist, Catholic, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, and Protestant colleagues who serve the whole Tufts family as well as their particular communities. Spiritual life at Tufts also includes many campus communities across the religious and philosophical spectrum.

We invite you to visit our website, Facebook page, and Twitter profile for information about specific programs, services, communities, and ways to get involved. All are always welcome.

Special Words of Welcome

Special student communities, gatherings, and programs are offered to support the spiritual and ethical lives of graduate students on all three Tufts campuses, and our staff is available to meet with graduate students and support their particular spiritual needs.

The University Chaplaincy is charged with cultivating the development of meaning, purpose, and values in the lives of all members of the Tufts community, and we welcome Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, the Nonreligious, and Seekers in all of our programs and services. We support the Humanist community in its ethical exploration and community life and value Humanists as crucial partners in interfaith social justice work.

Consistent with Tufts’ historic social justice values and commitments, the University Chaplaincy welcomes and affirms persons of all genders and sexual orientations and works to promote the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in spiritual life and society.
Weekly Gatherings (During Term)

**Buddhist/Mindfulness Meditation:** Mondays, Noon Goddard Chapel

**Catholic Mass:** Sundays, 10 pm Goddard Chapel

**Humanist Small Group Reflection:** Mondays, 9 pm (alternate weeks) Interfaith Center

**Jewish Conservative and Reform Shabbat Services:** Fridays, 6 pm Saturdays, 10 am Hillel Center

**Muslim Jumah Prayer:** Fridays, 1:15 pm Interfaith Center

**Protestant Worship:** Sundays, 7 pm Goddard Chapel

**Other Gatherings:** See University Chaplaincy website for current times.

Campus Religious and Philosophical Communities

Africana Christian
Baha’i
Buddhist
Catholic
Evangelical Protestant
Hindu
Humanist
Interfaith (CAFE-Conversation, Action, Faith, and Education)
Jewish
Latter-day Saints
Mainline/Progressive Protestant
Muslim
Orthodox Christian
Seventh-day Adventist
Sikh
Unitarian Universalist

*Other campus communities are invited to contact the University Chaplain for support.*
Multifaith Opportunities

Baccalaureate Service
CAFE Interfaith Social Justice Pre-Orientation Program
Difficult Dialogues Workshops
Interfaith Awareness Month
Interfaith Student Council
Interfaith Trainings and Conferences
Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
Russell Lecture on Spiritual Life
Spiritual Life Resource Fair
Connections to Local, National & Global Interfaith Networks

Select Educational and Cultural Programming

Buddha’s Birthday Celebration
Diwali and Holi Celebrations
Ecumenical Christmas Party and Easter Brunch
Faith Is a Verb Series
Halal and Kosher Dining
Halloween Midnight Organ Recital
Humanism in Action Series
Jewish High Holiday and Festival Celebrations
Ramadan Iftars and Eid Celebrations
Retreats and Travel Seminars
Scripture Studies and Spiritual Formation Small Groups
Service and Social Justice Initiatives
Spring into Islam Awareness Month
Winter Holiday Concert

The University Chaplaincy collaborates in offering intersectional programming and services with centers and departments on all Tufts campuses that promote shared interests in diversity, social justice, global cultures and citizenship, public service, and care for the wellness of all.

The University Chaplaincy encourages students interested in the academic study of religion to explore the course offerings of Tufts’ excellent Religion Department:

ase.tufts.edu/religion.
Pastoral Care and Counseling

Pastoral care is a type of care and counseling provided by spiritual leaders. It involves nonjudgmental and compassionate listening that allows people to share their deepest joys, concerns, and hopes in the context of their full humanity, and for many, their spirituality. It has the goal of fostering a person’s spiritual wellbeing, and if desired can include spiritual guidance, scriptural study, and prayer. It can be a way to think through a relationship or a concern, and it provides a space for confidential sharing in the context of a holistic network of support. It is often especially important in times of loss and grief.

University Chaplaincy staff cannot be mandated to share the contents of pastoral conversations, although they may do so out of concern for a person or others. Tufts’ chaplains and residents are available to provide pastoral care upon request to any member of the Tufts community. Please visit, call, or email us to make an appointment. If needed, a chaplain may be reached at any hour by calling Tufts University Police at 617.627.3030.

Vigils, Celebrations, Weddings and Memorial Services

Throughout the year the University Chaplaincy offers invocations and benedictions at university events and coordinates holiday and holy day observances. We lead the university community in multifaith celebrations such as the Baccalaureate Service and vigils responding to significant local, national, and global occurrences. Tradition-specific lifecycle rituals and sacraments are also offered through our particular chaplaincies. In addition, the University Chaplaincy is honored to support the campus and local community by coordinating, hosting, and celebrating the joyous occasions of weddings and the solemn occasions of memorial services.

Tufts was founded on the deep spiritual and ethical conviction that all life shares a common destiny, and so we should learn about, care about, and serve one another here and now. The University Chaplaincy invites all to join us in embracing this spirit of our Universalist heritage as we explore the personal, social, and global dimensions of spirituality and ethics today.

Join our e-newsletter list online at chaplaincy.tufts.edu
Leadership Development and Vocational Discernment

Among the many benefits of becoming involved in religious and philosophical communities is the opportunity for leadership development, community building, and vocational discernment. These skills and connections are valuable in whatever paths students take beyond Tufts. Tufts has a proud tradition of preparing students for graduate study in religion and related fields, and supporting students in exploring careers in religious life, interfaith work, and public service. We offer connections to internships, training, mentoring, references, and networks to support students’ future plans.

Sacred Spaces (Medford Campus)

Goddard Chapel
3 The Green

Interfaith Center
58 Winthrop Street

Granoff Family Hillel Center
220 Packard Avenue

Prayer Room (Musallah)
Curtis Hall, 474 Boston Avenue