

Tufts UNIVERSITY Networking

Dental Career Services

Resources:

Tufts Online Community/

Alumni Directory:

<http://tuftsalumni.org/site/tufts-online-community/>

Career Link Advisor Network:

<http://dental.tufts.edu/careerlink/>

Networking is important since it connects you with others who can provide valuable insight based on their experience and because it can expand your circle of contacts and may lead to potential career opportunities. Below are some suggested ways to connect with dental professionals, as well as advice on how to initiate the conversation.

Who to approach:

It is wise to seek out individuals whom you share something in common with, for example Tufts University School of Dental Medicine alumni or alumni of your undergraduate institution. Most colleges and universities have an online alumni data base that students and graduates can use to network with alumni. The Tufts University Online Community includes an Alumni Directory that you can search to identify contacts based on certain criteria. For example, you can search for “Dentists” in your home state or the state that you intend to practice in. You can also conduct this search using your undergraduate school’s alumni data base, since this will introduce you to dentists who attended other dental schools. Tufts Dental Career Link also includes an Advisor Network that you can search to find professionals who are willing to provide advice and support to dental students.

[Tufts Online Community](#) (Once logged in use the Directory Search to find alumni to connect with)

[Career Link Advisor Network](#) (Once logged in select the “Alumni Advisor Network” tab)

Search tip: The search will produce a list of individuals and their profiles, which should include their email address as well as some details about their educational and professional experience. Before contacting them, you should take additional steps to learn more about them and their practice using a Google search and/or through LinkedIn.

How to connect:

It is best to initiate the conversation via email, since this allows you to explain your motivation for contacting them. It also gives them the option to respond. On the other side of this document are several sample emails that you can tailor for your own use.

Additional ways to network:

- Engage with State Dental Societies (Massachusetts Dental Society has a [Mentor Program](#))
- Participate in Social Media (i.e. Facebook groups, LinkedIn, [DentalTown.com](#)) Join discussions to initiate conversation with members and to stay informed about events and activities.
- Attend lectures, networking events, and continuing education (These events provide you with an opportunity to meet dental professionals in person. It is wise to bring and collect business cards.)

Sample Email:

Dear Dr. X,

My name is Imastudent and I'm a fourth year dental student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. I'm contacting you because I am interested in speaking with other Tufts Dental alumni to gain advice and insight about transitioning into practice. I found your contact information in the Tufts University Alumni Directory and I noticed that you are now practicing in Boca Raton, Florida. As a Florida native I am planning to return to the area after graduation, as I am eager to relocate to the warmer weather of the south after spending four long winters in New England!

After finding you in the Alumni Directory I did a little research on your practice, Bright Teeth Dentistry, which I understand is a multi-specialty group practice. Throughout dental school I've benefitted from training in close proximity to various specialists as it has allowed for in house referrals and has provided exposure to different post-graduate tracks. This experience has given me the impression that group practices provide a more seamless experience for the patient by offering comprehensive care in one location. I'm considering my options for after graduation and would be very interested to speak with you about your experience working in a group practice, since I'm curious to know more about the realities of this approach. I'd also be interested to know more about your path to dentistry and what you've learned along the way.

I recognize your time is very valuable, but wondered if you might be willing to set up a brief career advice conversation? Your advice and guidance would be very much appreciated! I'd like to accommodate your schedule so please let me know if there is a day/time that would work best for you. I am happy to meet you at your practice or at a location that is convenient for you.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Imastudent

imastudent@tufts.edu

123-456-7891

Linked In Message Example:

(Because the character count is limited the LinkedIn request to connect can't be as customized, detailed and personal as an email. It is wise to include your email address so that they may respond to you via email instead.)

Dr. X,

As a fourth year DMD student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, I was hoping to connect with you on LinkedIn to learn more about your career and if you might have advice for me. Can we connect via LinkedIn or perhaps via email at Imastudent@tufts.edu?

Thank you, Imastudent