

Friedman School Principles for External Engagement and Funding

The mission of the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University is to generate trusted science, educate future leaders, and produce real-world impact in nutrition science and policy. To achieve this mission, multi-sector collaboration is one core strategy. We engage expertise, perspectives, and resources from diverse sectors in order to create and apply dynamic, interdisciplinary solutions to leading challenges in nutrition science and policy.

Our commitment to this mission guides our engagement with others, including extramural support and multi-sectoral collaboration for programs, research, and advocacy. It is our intention to have our work supported by a diverse portfolio of funding and collaborations from foundations, government, the private sector, and philanthropists. The Friedman School understands that all such choices— whether to engage or not to engage with various collaborators—involve some risk. These include, but are not limited to, risks related to reputation, conflict of interest, and missed opportunities. Our principles for engagement with those outside Tufts University have been developed to minimize risk and maximize impact.

Six key principles guide our considerations for seeking engagement and achieving funding:

1. An evidence-based approach is a core pillar of the Friedman School's efforts. Through established processes, we take care to safeguard the scientific integrity, transparency and objectivity of our research and initiatives. Support and collaborations do not compromise our scientific integrity, transparency and obligation to share information for the benefit of the communities we serve.
2. The Friedman School will independently evaluate and manage its academic programs. Support and collaborations shall not compromise our educational curriculum.
3. The Friedman School only accepts funds for activities that are consistent with its mission and priorities. Interactions should enhance the goal of the Friedman School to promote health, sustainability, and food justice. Funding will not be accepted that has the potential to be exploited in a way that is inconsistent with our goal.
4. The expectations of prospective collaborators and sponsors regarding project implementation, outcomes, and recognition will follow established guidelines at the Friedman School and Tufts University. Sponsorship and support that we accept are transparently declared.
5. Control of research activities remains with the Friedman School. Support and collaborations do not unduly influence topic selection, research design, study conduct, data analysis, interpretation or publishing.
6. We value and respect the perspectives of our stakeholders—including Tufts University, our donors, community partners, colleagues, alumni, students, and others. Therefore, we consider these perspectives and seek additional input, as appropriate, from stakeholders when judging the relevance and potential conflicts of interest before engaging with philanthropists, foundations, governments and companies.

No provisions set forth herein should be construed to allow or facilitate any outside influence over Tufts University's research results, patient care or academic programs. For more information, see: [Our School's research home page](#) which hosts this document and the [Tufts University Conflict of Interest policy](#)