

THE URBAN SCHOOL OF SAN FRANCISCO

ADMISSIONS PROFILE FOR 2013-14

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Overview

The Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning. Urban's extraordinary teachers challenge our 377 students with an acclaimed academic program that combines a college-preparatory curriculum in math, science, arts and humanities with a comprehensive service learning and competitive athletics program, and a rich selection of co-curricular activities. But the most enduring aspect of an Urban education is that students learn to take responsibility for their education and become active citizens in their own communities. Located adjacent to Golden Gate Park, The Urban School has been at the forefront of educational excellence since our founding in 1966, pioneering nationally regarded innovations such as block scheduling, integrated service learning and a 1:1 student laptop program.

Student Activities

At Urban, we believe that high school is an important experience in its own right. Through strong relationships with their teachers, advisors and with each other, Urban students learn early on how to navigate a culture of collaboration, inclusion and mutual respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Urban has dozens of special interest student clubs, as well

as student government, an active outdoor and class trips program, and a student newspaper, yearbook and literary journal. Performing arts opportunities include fall and winter theater productions, circus class performances and the annual One Act Festival. Urban also offers an advanced and junior jazz band, a chamber orchestra and The Urban Singers chorus.

Athletics

A member of the Bay Area Conference and Bay Counties League-West, Urban fields interscholastic teams in baseball, basketball, cross-country, fencing, golf, lacrosse, soccer, track, softball, tennis and volleyball. Athletic practices and games are held in St. Agnes Gymnasium, as well as venues throughout the city, including Kezar Pavilion, the University of San Francisco and the playing fields of San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department. More than 60 percent of all Urban students participate in our athletics program.

Admissions

Urban seeks students with an enthusiastic approach to learning and a clear capacity for success in a challenging academic program. The school receives more than 550 applications annually for the incoming class and we draw students

from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (75 percent), the East Bay (6 percent), the Peninsula (7 percent) and Marin (13 percent). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 32 percent students of color, and for the 2013-14 school year, 29 percent of the student body will receive \$2.6 million in financial aid.

Evaluation at Urban

Urban's evaluation and grading practices combine the best of innovative and traditional approaches, consistent with our long history as a nationally recognized educational leader among secondary schools. Designed to challenge students to perform at their highest level, Urban's assessment system includes cycles of ongoing teacher feedback and student reflection. Written reports are provided twice per term—at the midpoint and at the end of each 12-week class—along with a final course letter grade. We know from nearly 50 years of experience that our use of specific, differentiated evaluative feedback fosters high levels of student engagement, depth of understanding and achievement, all of which support our mission to inspire a passion for learning.

The Urban School of San Francisco admits students without reference to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Urban does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, financial aid program, athletic and school-administered programs.

The Urban School of San Francisco is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the Secondary School Admission Test Board (SSATB), the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) and the Independent Curriculum Group. Urban also holds memberships in A Better Chance, Inc. (ABC), the Bay Counties League, and is a partner and summer locale for Aim High.

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College Matriculation from 2009 to 2013

American University..... 3	Drexel University..... 1	Mount Holyoke College..... 2	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art..... 1	University of Miami..... 1
Arizona State University..... 1	Eckerd College..... 1	Munich Business School..... 1	The George Washington University..... 6	University of Michigan..... 3
Bard College..... 4	Emerson College..... 1	New York University..... 22	The University of Arizona..... 1	University of Oregon..... 5
Barnard College..... 7	Emory University..... 1	Northeastern University..... 3	The University of Texas, Austin..... 1	University of Pennsylvania..... 3
Barry University..... 1	Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts.... 1	Northwestern University..... 7	The University of Texas, San Antonio..... 1	University of Portland..... 1
Bates College..... 2	Fordham University..... 2	Oberlin College..... 9	The University of Virginia..... 1	University of Puget Sound..... 4
Bennington College..... 6	Gonzaga University..... 1	Oberlin Conservatory of Music..... 1	Trinity College..... 1	University of Redlands..... 1
Berklee College of Music..... 3	Goucher College..... 2	Occidental College..... 15	Tufts University..... 3	University of Rhode Island..... 1
Boston University..... 9	Grinnell College..... 2	Pitzer College..... 5	Tulane University..... 7	University of San Francisco..... 2
Bowdoin College..... 2	Hamilton College - NY..... 1	Point Park University..... 1	University of British Columbia..... 2	University of Southern California..... 4
Brandeis University..... 2	Hampshire College..... 1	Pomona College..... 2	University of California Berkeley..... 6	University of St. Andrews..... 1
Brigham Young University..... 1	Harvard College..... 2	Purchase College State University of New York..... 1	University of California Davis..... 6	University of the Pacific..... 1
Brown University..... 3	Harvey Mudd College..... 2	Reed College..... 5	University of California Los Angeles..... 11	University of Victoria..... 1
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo..... 2	Haverford College..... 1	Rhodes College..... 1	University of California Merced..... 1	University of Washington..... 1
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona..... 3	Indiana University at Bloomington..... 1	Rochester Institute of Technology..... 2	University of Chicago..... 8	University of Wisconsin, Madison..... 4
California State University, Monterey Bay..... 1	Johns Hopkins University..... 3	Saint Joseph's University..... 1	University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music..... 1	Vanguard University of Southern California..... 1
Carleton College..... 6	Kenyon College..... 4	San Diego State University..... 1	University of Colorado at Boulder..... 4	Vassar College..... 5
Carnegie Mellon University..... 1	Lafayette College..... 1	San Francisco State University..... 8	University of Denver..... 2	Wake Forest University..... 1
Chapman University..... 2	Lake Forest College..... 1	Santa Clara University..... 2	University of Edinburgh..... 1	Washington State University in St. Louis..... 1
Cholby College..... 1	Lawrence University..... 2	Sarah Lawrence College..... 6	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign..... 1	Washington University in St. Louis..... 1
Colgate University..... 3	Lewis & Clark College..... 5	Scripps College..... 1	University of Kansas..... 2	Wellesley College..... 1
Colorado College..... 6	Loyola Marymount University..... 1	Seattle University..... 1	Yale University..... 5	Western Washington University..... 1
Columbia College Chicago..... 2	Loyola University New Orleans..... 4	Skidmore College..... 4		Wheaton College MA..... 1
Columbia University..... 7	Loyola University Chicago..... 2	Smith College..... 2		Whitman College..... 5
Connecticut College..... 2	Macalester College..... 6	Southern Methodist University..... 1		Whittier College..... 1
Cornell University..... 4	Marymount Manhattan College..... 1	St. John's College..... 1		Willamette University..... 1
Dartmouth College..... 3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology..... 2	Stanford University..... 10		Williams College..... 2
Denison University..... 2	McGill University..... 2	Syracuse University..... 2		Yale University..... 5
Dickinson College..... 1	Middlebury College..... 4	The College of Wooster..... 1		
Dominican University of California..... 1				

98 percent of our students attend a four-year college or university.

Grade Point Averages *(unweighted)

	Class of 2013	Class of 2012	Class of 2011
1st Quintile	4.0 - 3.74	3.97 - 3.78	3.94 - 3.71
2nd Quintile	3.73 - 3.6	3.77 - 3.59	3.70 - 3.59
3rd Quintile	3.6 - 3.39	3.58 - 3.42	3.57 - 3.42
4th Quintile	3.33 - 3.11	3.37 - 3.15	3.39 - 3.2
5th Quintile	3.1 - 2.55	3.13 - 2.55	3.17 - 2.31
Median	3.53	3.50	3.50

SAT Reasoning

	Class of 2013 (81 seniors tested)			Class of 2012 (88 seniors tested)			Class of 2011 (70 seniors tested)		
	CR	Math	WR	CR	Math	WR	CR	Math	WR
800 - 700	30	25	29	29	20	32	26	11	30
690 - 600	37	33	37	44	54	45	30	35	29
590 - 500	10	20	11	15	13	11	9	20	8
490 - 400	4	3	4	0	1	0	5	4	3
Mean	663	647	659	670	655	673	658	622	667

SAT Subject Test Mean Scores

	Class of 2013		Class of 2012		Class of 2011	
Chemistry	720	(16)	711	(17)	671	(10)
Literature	646	(52)	646	(58)	624	(59)
French	-	(-)	657	(9)	618	(13)
Math 2	682	(42)	652	(47)	646	(33)
Spanish	623	(29)	632	(31)	646	(31)
Physics*	688	(11)				

The number in parentheses indicates the number of students who took the examination.

*New this year

Teaching and Learning at The Urban School

Block System: Urban organizes the school year using a block system rather than a conventional semester system. Our block schedule exposes students to the independence, depth of learning and academic challenge they will face in college and beyond. The block schedule divides the academic year into three, 12-week terms: fall, winter and spring. Students take four intensive classes each term and most classes last for one or two terms. Due to longer class periods, a one-term class is equivalent to a semester course and a two-term class is equivalent to a year-long course.

Graduation Requirements: The Urban School requires 22 academic credits for graduation, distributed across the curriculum. One credit is equivalent to a year-long course. In completing Urban's graduation requirements, students exceed the minimum course

requirements for admission to the University of California system.

Pioneering 1:1 Laptop and Blended Learning Program: All incoming students are issued state-of-the-art MacBook Air computers for school and home use. Technology skills and digital tools are fully integrated throughout the curriculum to foster active, student-centered learning.

Service Learning: The Urban School is committed to extending education beyond the walls of the school. Our nationally regarded Service Learning program is tailored to the developmental needs of adolescents and to the educational mission of the school. The four-year program encourages students to approach unfamiliar situations and diverse populations with empathy; to develop a sense of identity, responsibility and purpose in relation to

the surrounding community; and to act on their desire and ability to affect positive, thoughtful change.

Additional Requirements: The Urban School requires eight credits toward a physical activity requirement. Students playing interscholastic athletics receive credit, and we also offer classes such as rock climbing, yoga, fencing and weight training/conditioning. Both freshmen and sophomores take a six-week Health Education course.

Educational Partners: The Urban School has partnerships for semester-long programs with both The Oxbow School, an intensive interdisciplinary program combining visual arts with academics in Napa, CA, and with CITYTerm, an experience-based educational program affiliated with the Masters School in New York City.

Urban Advanced Studies (UAS): The Urban School curriculum provides an exceptionally strong foundation in college preparatory subjects. Many of our classes have distinctive features that set them apart as particularly challenging and comparable to college-level work. These classes, designated as UAS, are developed by the Urban faculty and are not limited to the College Board Advanced Placement curriculum. UAS classes are offered in every subject area and recognized by colleges (including the University of California) as honors-level courses.

We provide AP exam preparation for Calculus, Chemistry, Chinese, Spanish, French and English Literature.

Highlights of the Curriculum

Birth of Modern China closely examines three distinct periods of Chinese history beginning in the mid 19th century until the fall of Chairman Mao's China, using primary resource materials such as political speeches, propaganda art, literature and film.

UAS Advanced Biology is a series of high-level biology courses offering students a comprehensive opportunity to study three of the most exciting and rapidly expanding fields of biology – Genetics, Neurobiology and Infectious Disease. Hands-on labs look at disease states and genetic engineering, and students explore immunology, microbiology, epidemiology and disease ecology, as well as global public health issues.

UAS Infinity, an honors-level math course, allows students to discuss ancient paradoxes about infinity. Infinity includes a strong emphasis on formal proof and an introduction to chaos theory and fractal geometry, two computer-centered branches of

mathematics, as well as connections with literature and philosophy.

UAS Music Theory 2: Composition explores and hones the skills necessary to begin creating original music pieces and projects of varying size and scope. Students deepen their understanding of rhythm, develop their ears and incorporate new tools for composition.

California Studies is a course for seniors that meets in the final six weeks of the year. Topics have included a focus on transportation issues, the state water supply and on food sources in California. Students spend considerable time outdoors in their quest to understand the topic, and the immense political and economic complexities involved in these issues.

The Examined Life pursues major philosophical and existential questions through close reading, frequent writing and critical thinking. Texts include excerpts from the great thinkers spanning myriad centuries and geographical locations.

UAS Constitutional Law is a study of civil liberties and The Bill Of Rights and is focused on a number of issues, including freedom of speech, press and assembly, the rights of minors and students, and the rights of the accused. Students read cases, visit courts and meet with lawyers.

UAS Russian Literature: Dostoevsky and Chekhov introduces students to the rich literary tradition of 19th century Russia through two of its great writers. Assignments and discussion emphasize close reading and informed interpretation of a dynamic body of literature.

UAS Advanced Physics is a series of three rich courses—Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, and Waves and Light—which allow students an in-depth exploration of some fundamental topics in classical physics. Each course is organized around substantive labs to demonstrate real world understanding.

Curriculum Guide

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

UAS denotes Urban Advanced Studies, Urban's most rigorous coursework.

Math

Three credits required
9th: Math 1A and B*
10th: Math 2A and B
11th: Math 3A and B

Computer Science 1
Probability and Statistics
Advanced Math Applications

UAS Functions
UAS Analytic Geometry
UAS Space

UAS Computer Science 2
UAS Infinity
UAS Calculus

AP Calculus AB Exam Prep
AP Calculus BC Exam Prep

Science

Two credits required
9th: Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B (bio/chem)
10th: Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B (bio/chem)

Physics: Electronics
Physics: Machines
Physics: Motion
Astronomy
Marine Biology
Entomology: Bugs & Biodiversity

Environmental Chemistry
Geology
Human Anatomy and Physiology
AP Chemistry Exam Prep
UAS Advanced Chemistry

UAS Environmental Science: Physical Resources
UAS Environmental Science: Ecology
UAS Advanced Biology: Genetics
UAS Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease

UAS Advanced Biology: Neurobiology
UAS Advanced Physics: Waves and Light
UAS Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism
UAS Advanced Physics: Mechanics

History

Two credits required
9th: 20th Century World History (1A and B)
10th/11th: **UAS** US History: Civil War and **UAS** Recent America

Revolutionary Europe
Comparative Religion
Birth of Modern China
Peacemakers
Elections
Contemporary Issues: Research and Writing

African History
Oral History: Civil Rights
Economics
Latin America
UAS America Transformed (1865-1929)

UAS Colonial Origins
UAS Constitutional Law
UAS Contemporary China
UAS Elections
UAS History of Women In America

UAS US Environmental History
UAS Medieval History
UAS Middle East: 1979
UAS History of South Asia Parts 1 & 2

English

Four credits required
9th: The Journey (English 1A and 1B)
10th: Composition (English 2A and 2B)
11th: **UAS** Shakespeare/Electives
12th: Electives

Advanced Composition
The Examined Life
Journalism
UAS Advanced Shakespeare
UAS Theater of Ideas
UAS Biblical Literature

UAS Poetry: Form and Meaning
UAS The Naturalist as Writer
UAS Virgil and Ovid
UAS Faulkner
UAS French Romantic Novels

UAS Creative Non-Fiction
UAS Joyce and Woolf
UAS Latin American Literature
UAS Modern American Literature

UAS Modern Irish Literature
UAS British Literature
UAS American Romanticism
UAS Baldwin and Puig
UAS Russian Literature

Language

Three credits required*

Chinese 1
Chinese 2
Chinese 3
UAS Chinese 4

UAS Chinese 5/6
French 1
French 2
French 3

UAS French 4
UAS French 5/6
Spanish 1
Spanish 2

Spanish 3
UAS Spanish 4
UAS Spanish 5/6

Visual and Performing Arts

Two credits required

Performing Arts

Acting 1
UAS Acting 2
Peer Education Theater
Comedy / Popular Theater
Circus Techniques
Theater Production (Fall or Winter)
Introduction to Urban Singers

Introduction to Jazz Band
20th Century American Popular Music
Rhythm Section Essentials
Chamber Ensemble
Jazz Band
Urban Singers
UAS Music Production and Engineering
Music Theory 1

UAS Music Theory 2: Composition
Visual Arts
Photography: Bookmaking
Drawing/Mixed Media
Painting
Printmaking
Sculpture
Photography

Video Production
Media Literacy: Critical Consumption
Art History and Contemporary Practice
UAS Stone Carving
UAS Advanced Visual Art Seminar
Portfolio/AP Art Prep

Senior Projects, Seminars and Independent Study

Senior Music/Theater Project
Art as a Daily Practice

California Studies
One-Act Festival

Advanced Musical Ensemble
Senior Service Learning Project

San Francisco Studies

Service Learning

Two credits required, distributed over four years

Freshman Service Learning: Identity and Ethnic Studies

Sophomore Service Learning: Identity and Community Partnerships

Junior Service Learning
Independent Internship and Seminar: Identity at Urban and Beyond

Senior Service Learning: Independent Internship and Synthesis Seminar

* Some students may test out of first year math or language as freshmen. Courses are subject to change annually.