

# College Admissions Profile

2016-17



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## Overview

The Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning. Urban's extraordinary teachers challenge our 417 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 the first 1:1 laptop program at any California independent high school.

## 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. 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 received more than 600 applications annually for the incoming class and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (81 percent),

the East Bay (3 percent), the Peninsula (7 percent) and Marin (9 percent). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 39 percent students of color, and for the 2016-17 school year, 27 percent of the student body will receive \$3.36 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 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.

## Teaching and Learning at The Urban School

**Block System:** A leader for more than 40 years in block system scheduling in high school, Urban's program exposes students to the independence, depth of learning and academic challenge common in college and beyond. The academic year is divided 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. The school also requires physical activity credits and 9th and 10th grade health education coursework for graduation.

### **Pioneering Use of Digital Tools:**

Urban has offered a 1:1 laptop program for students and faculty since 2000. Technology is fully integrated across the curriculum to support and foster active, student-centered learning. Beyond Urban, faculty members serve as master teachers in peer-to-peer education around classroom-based integration of digital tools in professional workshops and conferences throughout the year.

**Service Learning:** Urban's 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.

**Educational Partners:** 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 college preparatory foundation across all subjects. Designated as UAS, many of our classes are comparable to college-level work in pace and content, and are recognized by colleges – including the University of California – as honors-level. Offered in every subject area, UAS coursework is developed by the Urban faculty and is not limited to the College Board Advanced Placement curriculum. Students are counseled as to the number of UAS classes taken each term.

We provide AP exam preparation in mathematics, the sciences, world languages, music theory, studio art and English literature.

## Curricular Highlights

Urban students are encouraged to explore deeply across a range of subjects. The block system allows for college-level specificity in a broader reaching high school context. Below, we've highlighted a sampling of noteworthy Urban academic programs.

**Mathematics** Urban's math program draws from traditional and contemporary approaches. Starting with Math 1, 2, 3 and Functions, which are close to the traditional Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and precalculus sequence, we emphasize a spiraled content structure, revisiting and re-integrating concepts with increasing levels of challenge at each level. Many of our lessons and teaching approach serve as the backbone for syllabi for the professional development of high school math teachers across the US. Urban elective offerings include highly conceptual options, such as UAS Infinity and UAS Space – both complements to calculus. Computer Science college level classes prepare students for programming in any language.



Urban is a founding leader of the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium, a partnership among five leading independent high schools, which offers classes combining face-to-face and online instruction, while preserving the core relational culture and values that are at the heart of Urban's and our partner schools' educational missions. BlendEd courses are an extension of Urban's innovative, technologically integrated curriculum.

**URBAN** **UrbanX Labs** is Urban's integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the design, technology and engineering educational needs of the 21st century. UrbanX courses teach students the fundamentals of discovery, innovation,

creativity and problem-solving, all deeply rooted in Urban's highly academic and supportive teaching environment. Courses include electronics and robotics, engineering, computer science and advanced coding, industrial design and more.

**Science** Urban's Science Department provides rigorous, real-world, inspirational offerings in the sciences. We embrace a teaching philosophy in which students are actively and personally involved in making sense of meaningful experiences and ideas. The breadth of challenging science electives provides students an active role in the application of conceptual content that builds upon the fundamental science sequence. Field trips, labs leading to published research, and active engagement with contemporary scientific conversations extend the classroom experience beyond Urban's walls.

# Curriculum Guide

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

<p><b>Math</b> Three credits required 9<sup>th</sup>: Math 1A and B* 10<sup>th</sup>: Math 2A and B 11<sup>th</sup>: Math 3A and B</p>	<p>Advanced Math Applications Discrete Mathematics Statistics &amp; Probability</p>	<p>Computer Science 1 <b>UAS</b> Computer Science 2 <b>UAS</b> Computer Science 3</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Functions <b>UAS</b> Calculus A and B <b>UAS</b> Calculus C</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Analytic Geometry <b>UAS</b> Space: Group Theory <b>UAS</b> Infinity: Set Theory &amp; Group Theory</p>
<p><b>Science</b> Two credits required 9<sup>th</sup>: Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B (bio/chem) 10<sup>th</sup>: Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B (bio/chem)</p>	<p>Applied Physics: Electronics &amp; Robotics Applied Physics: Motion &amp; Machines Astronomy Marine Biology Entomology: Bugs &amp; Biodiversity</p>	<p>Geology Human Anatomy and Physiology <b>UAS</b> Advanced Chemistry A and B <b>UAS</b> Advanced Chemistry C: Environmental and Materials Engineering</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Physical Resources <b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Ecology <b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Genetics <b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Mechanics <b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism <b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Waves and Light</p>
<p><b>History</b> Two credits required 9<sup>th</sup>: 20th Century World History (1A and B) 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>: <b>UAS</b> Making America and <b>UAS</b> Remaking America</p>	<p>African History Birth of Modern China Civics and the 2016 Elections Comparative Religion Contemporary Issues: Research and Writing</p>	<p>Economics Elections 2016 Latin America Revolutionary Europe US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Asian American History <b>UAS</b> America Transformed (1865-1929) <b>UAS</b> Colonial Origins <b>UAS</b> Constitutional Law <b>UAS</b> Contemporary China</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> History of South Asia, Parts 1 &amp; 2 <b>UAS</b> History of Women In America <b>UAS</b> Medieval History <b>UAS</b> Modern Middle East <b>UAS</b> US Environmental History</p>
<p><b>English</b> Four credits required 9<sup>th</sup>: The Journey (English 1A and 1B) 10<sup>th</sup>: Composition (English 2A and 2B) 11<sup>th</sup>: <b>UAS</b> Shakespeare/ Electives 12<sup>th</sup>: Electives</p>	<p>Writing as Craft Examining the Good Life Journalism+</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Shakespeare <b>UAS</b> American Romanticism <b>UAS</b> Biblical Literature <b>UAS</b> Creative Nonfiction <b>UAS</b> Faulkner</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Global Literature: Nigeria <b>UAS</b> Harlem: Veils of Identity <b>UAS</b> Joyce and Woolf <b>UAS</b> Latin American Literature <b>UAS</b> Literature of Dystopia and Sci-Fi</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Modern American Literature <b>UAS</b> Modern Irish Literature <b>UAS</b> Poetry: Form and Meaning <b>UAS</b> The Naturalist as Writer <b>UAS</b> Russian Literature</p>
<p><b>World Languages</b> Three credits required*</p>	<p>Chinese 1-3 <b>UAS</b> Chinese 4-6</p>	<p>French 1-3 <b>UAS</b> French 4-6</p>	<p>Spanish 1-3 <b>UAS</b> Spanish 4-6</p>	
<p><b>Visual and Performing Arts</b> Two credits required</p>	<p><b>Performing Arts</b> Acting 1 <b>UAS</b> Acting 2 Peer Education Theater Circus Techniques Theater Production (Fall or Winter) Introduction to Urban Singers Introduction to Jazz Band</p>	<p>Introduction to Chamber Orchestra 20th Century American Popular Music Rhythm Section Essentials Chamber Orchestra Jazz Band Urban Singers <b>UAS</b> Music Production and Engineering</p>	<p>Music Theory 1 <b>UAS</b> Music Theory 2: Composition <b>UAS</b> Applied Music Theory <b>Visual Arts</b> Drawing/Mixed Media Graphic Design Industrial Design Media (De)Construction</p>	<p>Painting Photography Printmaking Sculpture Video Production Stone Carving <b>UAS</b> Advanced Visual Art Seminar</p>
<p><b>Senior Projects, Seminars and Independent Study</b></p>	<p>Art as a Daily Practice California Studies</p>	<p>One-Act Festival Advanced Musical Ensemble</p>	<p>Senior Service Learning Project Research and Action Project</p>	
<p><b>Service Learning</b> Two credits required, distributed over four years</p>	<p>Freshman Service Learning: Identity and Ethnic Studies</p>	<p>Sophomore Service Learning: Identity and Community Partnerships</p>	<p>Junior Service Learning Independent Internship and Seminar: Identity at Urban and Beyond</p>	<p>Senior Service Learning: Independent Internship and Synthesis Seminar</p>
<p><b>Bay Area BlendEd</b></p>	<p>Bay Area Field Ecology Climate Change: Scientific Principles, Impacts and Human Responses</p>	<p>Creative Writing: Very Short Stories Mandarin 5 Seismic Studies in the Bay Area</p>	<p>Bay Area Cinema Beats, Rhymes and Life: an Exploration of Hip-Hop, its History and Global Impact Environmental Justice and the Social Determinants of Health</p>	<p>#Entrepreneurship Introduction to Organic Chemistry Web Design and Development Multivariable Calculus</p>

\* Some students may test into second year math or language as freshmen. Courses are subject to change annually. \* Does not fulfill an English requirement

## College Matriculation from 2012 to 2016

The American University of Paris .....	1	Harvey Mudd College.....	1	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill .....	1
American University.....	3	Hobart and William Smith Colleges .....	1	The University of Texas, Austin.....	2
Amherst College .....	3	Indiana University at Bloomington .....	2	Trinity College.....	1
Bard College.....	2	Johns Hopkins University.....	5	Tufts University .....	5
Barnard College .....	9	Kenyon College .....	3	Tulane University .....	12
Bates College.....	2	Lafayette College .....	2	University of British Columbia .....	3
Bentley University.....	1	Lake Forest College .....	2	University of California	
Berklee College of Music .....	5	Lehigh University .....	2	Berkeley .....	4
Boston College .....	1	Lewis & Clark College .....	3	Davis .....	5
Boston University.....	8	Loyola Marymount University.....	1	Los Angeles.....	18
Bowdoin College.....	2	Loyola University New Orleans .....	1	Riverside .....	3
Brandeis University.....	1	Macalester College .....	4	Santa Barbara.....	2
Brigham Young University.....	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology .....	1	Santa Cruz.....	8
Brown University .....	4	McGill University .....	3	University of Chicago.....	7
Bryn Mawr College .....	2	Middlebury College.....	6	University of Cincinnati College- Cons. of Music .....	1
California Polytechnic State University		Mills College.....	1	University of Colorado at Boulder .....	5
San Luis Obispo.....	5	Mount Holyoke College .....	1	University of Denver.....	4
Pomona.....	1	Muhlenberg College.....	1	University of Michigan .....	3
California State University		Munich Business School .....	1	University of North Carolina School of the Arts.....	1
Chico .....	1	New York University .....	24	University of Notre Dame .....	1
Monterey Bay .....	1	Northeastern University.....	4	University of Oregon .....	4
Carleton College.....	5	Northwestern University.....	7	University of Pennsylvania.....	5
Carnegie Mellon University.....	1	Oberlin College .....	18	University of Puget Sound.....	5
Chapman University.....	4	Occidental College .....	8	University of Redlands.....	1
Claremont McKenna College .....	1	Pitzer College.....	7	University of Rochester.....	1
Clark University .....	2	Pomona College.....	4	University of San Francisco .....	1
Colby College .....	2	Reed College.....	8	University of Southern California.....	8
Colgate University.....	1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute .....	1	University of the Pacific.....	1
College of Charleston.....	1	Rhode Island School of Design .....	1	University of Vermont.....	2
Colorado College.....	3	Saint Joseph's University .....	1	University of Virginia.....	1
Columbia College Chicago.....	1	San Francisco State University .....	4	University of Washington.....	1
Columbia University .....	5	Santa Clara University.....	4	Vassar College .....	3
Connecticut College .....	2	Sarah Lawrence College.....	8	Wake Forest University.....	3
Cornell University.....	2	Scripps College.....	4	Washington University in St. Louis .....	3
Dartmouth College.....	4	Seattle University.....	2	Wesleyan University.....	8
Dickinson College.....	1	Skidmore College .....	9	Whitman College .....	5
Drexel University .....	1	Smith College .....	2	Whittier College.....	1
Duke University .....	1	Southern Methodist University.....	1	Williams College.....	1
Eckerd College .....	1	St. Olaf College .....	2	Worcester Polytechnic Institute .....	2
Emerson College.....	1	Stanford University.....	7	Yale University .....	6
Emory University.....	2	Syracuse University.....	2	Whitman College .....	6
Fordham University.....	3	The College of Wooster .....	3	Whittier College .....	2
Franklin and Marshall College .....	2	The Evergreen State College.....	1	Williams College.....	1
Gonzaga University.....	1	The George Washington University.....	3	Worcester Polytechnic Institute .....	2
Goucher College.....	1	The New School - All Divisions .....	5	Yale University .....	6
Grinnell College.....	2	The University of Arizona.....	1		
Hamilton College - NY .....	2	The University of Edinburgh.....	1		
Hampshire College.....	3	The University of Iowa.....	1		

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

<b>Grade Point Averages</b> *(unweighted)		<b>Class of 2016 (89 students)</b>	<b>Class of 2015 (95 students)</b>	<b>Class of 2014 (83 students)</b>
	1st Quintile	3.99 - 3.77	3.99 - 3.77	3.96 - 3.75
	2nd Quintile	3.76 - 3.66	3.76 - 3.60	3.73 - 3.57
	3rd Quintile	3.65 - 3.50	3.59 - 3.42	3.56 - 3.38
	4th Quintile	3.49 - 3.31	3.41 - 3.24	3.37 - 3.24
	5th Quintile	3.30 - 2.69	3.23 - 2.66	3.23 - 2.43
	Median	3.54	3.52	3.49

<b>SAT Reasoning</b> (before March 2016)		<b>Class of 2016 (71 students tested)</b>			<b>Class of 2015 (86 students tested)</b>			<b>Class of 2014 (79 students tested)</b>		
		<b>CR</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>WR</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>WR</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>WR</b>
	800 - 700	29	20	24	35	32	34	21	15	32
	690 - 600	27	40	33	37	33	33	46	43	35
	590 - 500	13	10	13	11	20	14	10	19	11
	490 - 400	2	1	1	3	1	5	2	2	1
	Mean	664	656	657	666	661	665	657	637	666

<b>SAT Subject Test Mean Scores</b>		<b>Class of 2016</b>		<b>Class of 2015</b>		<b>Class of 2014</b>	
		<b>Mean</b>	<b># tested</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b># tested</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b># tested</b>
	Chemistry	698	15	721	20	724	11
	Literature	641	56	628	46	640	52
	French	638	4	607	13	643	4
	Math 2	651	52	701	54	659	39
	Spanish	664	19	607	18	621	36
Physics	689	8	678	15	674	5	

<b>ACT</b>		<b>Class of 2016 (28 tested)</b>
		<b>Mean</b>
	English	31
	Math	29
	Reading	31
	Science Reasoning	29
	Composite	30



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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.