



2022-23

COLLEGE PROFILE



Urban

Dan Miller

Head of School

Charlotte Worsley

Assistant Head for Student Life

Danielle McReynolds-Dell

Academic Dean

Lauren Gersick**Elizabeth Harris**Co-Directors of College
Counseling**Overview**

Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning. Urban's extraordinary teachers challenge our 420 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, 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 affinity and ally organizations and special interest student clubs, as well as student government, an active international, outdoor and class trips program, and a student newspaper and yearbook. Performing arts opportunities include fall and winter theater productions, circus class performances and the annual One Acts. Urban also offers an advanced and junior jazz band, 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, sailing, soccer, track, softball, tennis and volleyball. On average, around 65-70% of Urban students participate in our athletics program each year.

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 800 applications for the incoming class, and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (89%) and the Bay Area (11%). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 49% students of color, and for the 2022-23 school year, 29% of the student body will receive \$4.8 million in financial aid.

Evaluation at Urban

A nationally recognized educational leader among secondary schools, Urban's program is designed to challenge students to perform at their highest level. The 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. Urban's specific, differentiated evaluative feedback fosters high levels of student engagement and depth of understanding and achievement, all of which support our mission to inspire a passion for learning.

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.

Teaching and Learning at Urban School

Three-term System: The academic year is divided into three 12-week terms: fall, winter and spring. Students take four classes each term, and many 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. Urban's program exposes students to the independence, depth of learning and academic challenge common in college and beyond.

Graduation Requirements: 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.

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 The Oxbow School, an intensive interdisciplinary program combining visual arts and academics in Napa, CA; The Mountain School in rural Vermont; and The School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington, D.C.

Urban is a founding leader of the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium, a partnership among seven leading independent high schools. BE 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.

Curricular Highlights

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

Multidisciplinary Courses

These classes span and blend traditional disciplines, encouraging students to apply their skills and knowledge across subjects. Many of these courses involve a significant field component.

- » **Cal Studies**, a one credit interdisciplinary course that explores the economic, environmental and socio-political implications of a single issue, such as water.
- » **Global Migration** examines patterns in migration, as well as the various reasons that lead people to move.
- » **Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions** engages students to dive deeply into one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, including the political, economic and social justice implications of action versus inaction.
- » **Voices of Incarceration** Through readings, writing and meeting those who have been released back into their communities, this course explores how more than 70 million Americans bear the marks of the criminal justice system.



Environmental Sustainability

Urban offers many classes that address different aspects of our relationship with the natural world, while building upon and making connections to students' prior knowledge from other disciplines. Many of our environmental sustainability classes include field trips as central components; student understanding, classroom activities and major assessments all proceed from these experiences. By taking these classes, including UAS Environmental Science: Ecology, Marine Biology and UAS The Naturalist as Writer, students expand their knowledge, personal connection and contextualization of key sustainability challenges.



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, Materials Science, Computer Science, Industrial Design and more.

Mathematics Urban's math program is organized around integrated Math 1, 2 and 3 courses, which are close to traditional Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and precalculus. The curriculum emphasizes a spiraled content structure, whereby students revisit and re-integrate learned concepts with increasing levels of challenge. Urban elective offerings include highly conceptual options, such as the honors-level UAS Infinity and UAS Space (both complements to UAS Calculus), as well as the BlendEd Consortium yearlong, honors-level Multivariable Calculus. Urban's advanced UAS Computer Science 2 and 3 are college-level classes that prepare students for programming in any language.

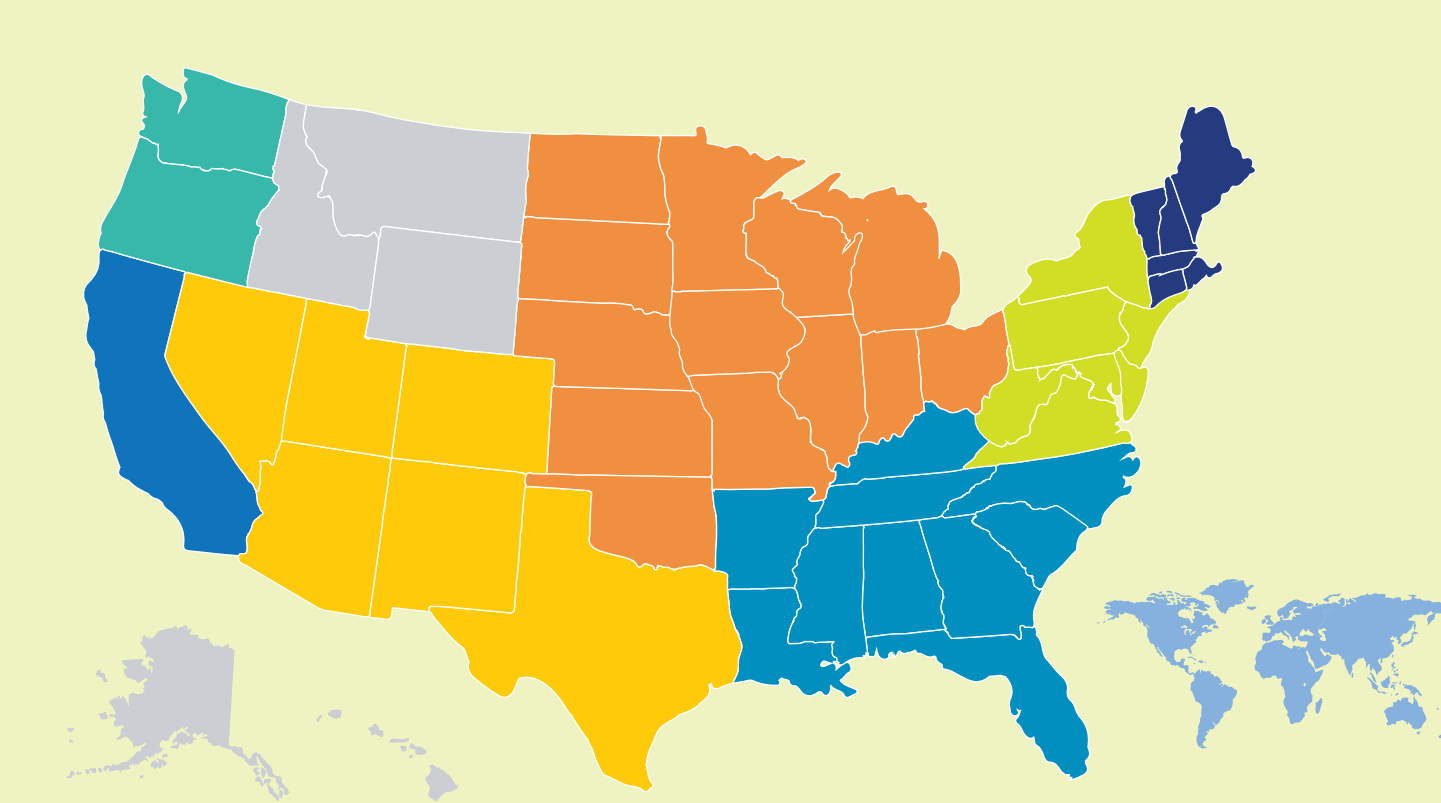
Curriculum Guide

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









Math Three credits required 9 th : Math 1A and B* 10 th : Math 2A and B 11 th : Math 3A and B	Advanced Math Applications Data Science Discrete Mathematics Statistics & Probability	Computer Science 1 UAS Computer Science 2 UAS Computer Science 3	UAS Functions UAS Calculus A and B UAS Analytic Geometry	UAS Space: Group Theory UAS Infinity: Theory of Infinite Sets & Chaos Theory
Science Two credits required 9 th : Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B (bio/chem) 10 th : Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B (bio/chem)	Applied Physics: Electronics & Robotics Applied Physics: Motion & Machines Applied Chemistry: Materials Science Astronomy	Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions Geology Human Anatomy and Physiology Marine Biology Neuroscience	UAS Advanced Biology: Genetics UAS Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease UAS Advanced Chemistry A and B UAS Environmental Science: Ecology	UAS Environmental Science: Physical Resources UAS Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism UAS Advanced Physics: Mechanics UAS Advanced Physics: Waves and Light
History Two credits required 9 th : World History (A and B) 10 th /11 th : UAS Making America and UAS Remaking America	Birth of Modern China Civics and Society Comparative Religion: Our Search for Meaning Contemporary Issues: Research & Writing Economics	The French Revolution Globalization Screening History South African History US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond	UAS America Transformed: 1865-1929 UAS Asian American History UAS Constitutional Law UAS Environmental History	UAS History of South Asia: Modern South Asia UAS Women's United States History UAS Modern Middle East UAS Race in Latin American History
English Four credits required 9 th : The Journey (English 1A and 1B) 10 th : Composition (English 2A and 2B)	Examining the Good Life Journalism* Literature and Film Stories on Stage UAS American Romanticism UAS British Literature: Breaking Boundaries	UAS Creative Nonfiction UAS Faulkner UAS Immigrant Literature: A Legacy of Innovation UAS Introduction to Creative Writing	UAS Latin American Literature UAS Literature of Dystopia and SciFi UAS Modern American Literature UAS Nigerian Literature	UAS Poetry: Form and Meaning UAS Russian Literature: Dostoevsky and Chekhov UAS Shakespeare UAS The Naturalist as Writer UAS Toni Morrison
World Languages Three credits required*	Chinese 1-3 UAS Chinese 4-6	French 1-3 UAS French 4-6	Spanish 1-3 UAS Spanish 4-6	
Visual and Performing Arts Two credits required	Performing Arts Essentials of Comedy Theater 1: Performance Lab Theater 2: Performance Ensemble Circus Techniques One Acts Festival Peer Education Theater UAS Theater Production UAS Musical Theater Production	Introduction to Urban Singers Introduction to Jazz Band Introduction to Chamber Orchestra Urban Singers Lab Jazz Band Advanced Jazz Band Chamber Orchestra Music Theory 1 20th Century American Popular Music	Advanced Musical Ensemble UAS Applied Music Theory: Tools for Performing Musicians UAS Music Production and Engineering UAS Music Theory 2: Composition Visual Arts Architectural Design Art as a Daily Practice Drawing/Mixed Media	Graphic Design Industrial Design Painting Photography Sculpture: Clay and Mixed Media Video Production UAS Advanced Art Exhibition UAS Media Arts UAS Printmaking UAS Stone Carving
Multidisciplinary Courses	California Studies Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions	Global Migration: Who, Where, Why	Mathematics of Democracy Voices of Incarceration	UAS Rethinking Poverty
Service Learning Two credits required, distributed over four years	9th Grade Service Learning: Identity and Ethnic Studies / 9th Grade Health	10th Grade Service Learning: Identity and Community Partnerships / 10th Grade Health	Junior Service Learning Independent Internship and Seminar: Identity at Urban and Beyond	Senior Service Learning: Independent Internship and Understanding Systems of Inequity and Resistance
Bay Area BlendEd	American Politics Applied AI in Python Black Holes and Einstein's Theory of Relativity	Digital Music Production Ecological Architecture Financial Literacy	Gender Studies Intro to Comparative Ethnic Studies Multivariable Calculus	Public Health & Vulnerable Populations Social Psychology Shakespeare in Performance

* Some students may test into second year math or language as incoming 9th graders. Courses are subject to change annually. * Does not fulfill an English requirement

College Matriculation from 2018 to 2022



Urban graduates between 2018 and 2022 enrolled in 138 colleges across 31 states* and 5 countries.

By Region	2018-22	%
 CALIFORNIA	135	27%
 NEW ENGLAND	124	25%
 MID-ATLANTIC	100	20%
 MIDWEST	59	12%
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST	31	6%
 SOUTHEAST	25	5%
 SOUTHWEST	16	3%
 INTERNATIONAL	11	2%

Public/Private	2018-22	%
Private Out-of-State	312	63%
Private In-State	68	14%
Public In-State	67	13%
Public Out-of-State	43	8%
International	11	2%

By Type	2018-22	%
Research University	303	61%
Liberal Arts	185	37%
Arts College	9	2%
Community College	3	<1%
Professional Training	1	<1%

*includes District of Columbia

GPA Distribution

Class of 2022 (106 students)

1st Quintile	4.00 - 3.87
2nd Quintile	3.86 - 3.75
3rd Quintile	3.74 - 3.62
4th Quintile	3.61 - 3.43
5th Quintile	3.42 - 2.96

Class of 2021 (95 students)

1st Quintile	3.99 - 3.85
2nd Quintile	3.84 - 3.70
3rd Quintile	3.69 - 3.57
4th Quintile	3.56 - 3.38
5th Quintile	3.33 - 2.78

SAT Summary

Please note that in both the 2021-22 and 2020-21 school years, students in Northern California have had marked difficulty accessing local standardized testing.

	Class of 2022 (46 students tested)		Class of 2021 (29 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
Evidence Based Reading and Writing	708	660 - 750	686	645 - 745
Math	696	650 - 750	671	620 - 730
Total	1404	1330 - 1470	1357	1265 - 1465

ACT Summary

Please note that in both the 2021-22 and 2020-21 school years, students in Northern California have had marked difficulty accessing local standardized testing.

	Class of 2022 (46 students tested)		Class of 2021 (29 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
English	33.3	34 - 35	33.2	32 - 35
Math	28.5	26 - 31	29.9	26 - 33
Reading	32.8	31 - 36	33.5	31 - 36
Science	29.9	26 - 33	30.6	29 - 33
ELA	-	-	21.9	0 - 31
STEM	-	-	30.5	28 - 32
Writing	0.4	0 - 0	6.2	0 - 9
Composite	30.9	29 - 33	32	29 - 33

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.

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), Mastery Transcript Consortium and People of Color in Independent Schools. Urban also holds memberships in A Better Chance, Inc. (ABC), SMART, Summerbridge, the Bay Counties League, and is a partner and summer locale for Aim High.