

College Admissions Profile

2017-18



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Overview

Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning. Urban's extraordinary teachers challenge our 419 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 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 700 applications for the incoming class and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools

in San Francisco (80 percent), the East Bay (3 percent), the Peninsula (7 percent) and Marin (10 percent). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 42 percent students of color, and for the 2017-18 school year, 29 percent of the student body will receive \$3.72 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 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: 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. Urban's advanced UAS Computer Science 2 and 3 are college level classes that prepare students for programming in any language.



Bay Area BlendEd Consortium

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.



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.

Senior Spring Curriculum allows for meaningful engagement through the end of Senior year, including electives designed to reflect a level of commitment, independence and depth for soon-to-be graduates:

- » **Cal Studies**, a one credit interdisciplinary course that explores the economic, environmental and socio-political implications of a single issue, such as water.
- » **Research and Action Project**, a deep research project in an area of academic or service interest.
- » **One Act Festival**, for Seniors interested in writing, directing and producing original theater.

Curriculum Guide

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

<p>Math Three credits required 9th: Math 1A and B* 10th: Math 2A and B 11th: Math 3A and B</p>	<p>Advanced Math Applications Discrete Mathematics Statistics & Probability</p>	<p>Computer Science 1 UAS Computer Science 2 UAS Computer Science 3</p>	<p>UAS Functions UAS Calculus A and B UAS Analytic Geometry</p>	<p>UAS Space: Group Theory UAS Infinity</p>
<p>Science Two credits required 9th: Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B (bio/chem) 10th: Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B (bio/chem)</p>	<p>Applied Physics: Electronics & Robotics Applied Physics: Motion & Machines Astronomy Marine Biology Entomology: Bugs & Biodiversity</p>	<p>Geology Human Anatomy and Physiology Applied Chemistry: Materials Science UAS Advanced Chemistry A and B</p>	<p>UAS Advanced Chemistry C: Environmental and Materials Engineering UAS Environmental Science: Physical Resources UAS Environmental Science: Ecology UAS Advanced Biology: Genetics</p>	<p>UAS Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease UAS Advanced Physics: Mechanics UAS Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism UAS Advanced Physics: Waves and Light</p>
<p>History Two credits required 9th: 20th Century World History (1A and B) 10th/11th: UAS Making America and UAS Remaking America</p>	<p>African History Birth of Modern China Civics and Elections Comparative Religion Contemporary Issues: Research and Writing</p>	<p>Economics Elections Latin America Revolutionary Europe US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond</p>	<p>UAS Asian American History UAS America Transformed (1865-1929) UAS Colonial Origins UAS Constitutional Law UAS Contemporary China</p>	<p>UAS History of South Asia, Parts 1 & 2 UAS History of Women In America UAS Medieval History UAS Modern Middle East UAS US Environmental History</p>
<p>English Four credits required 9th: The Journey (English 1A and 1B) 10th: Composition (English 2A and 2B) 11th: UAS Shakespeare/ Electives 12th: Electives</p>	<p>Politics and Language Examining the Good Life Journalism+</p>	<p>UAS Advanced Shakespeare UAS American Romanticism UAS Creative Nonfiction UAS Faulkner</p>	<p>UAS Nigerian Literature UAS Harlem: Veils of Identity UAS Joyce and Woolf UAS Latin American Literature UAS Literature of Dystopia and Sci-Fi</p>	<p>UAS Modern American Literature UAS Modern Irish Literature UAS Poetry: Form and Meaning UAS The Naturalist as Writer UAS Russian Literature</p>
<p>World Languages Three credits required*</p>	<p>Chinese 1-3 UAS Chinese 4-6</p>	<p>French 1-3 UAS French 4-6</p>	<p>Spanish 1-3 UAS Spanish 4-6</p>	
<p>Visual and Performing Arts Two credits required</p>	<p>Performing Arts Acting 1 UAS 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 UAS Music Production and Engineering</p>	<p>Music Theory 1 UAS Music Theory 2: Composition UAS Applied Music Theory Visual Arts Drawing/Mixed Media Graphic Design Industrial Design Media (De)Construction</p>	<p>Painting Photography Printmaking Sculpture Video Production Stone Carving Advanced Visual Art Seminar</p>
<p>Senior Projects, Seminars and Independent Study</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>Service Learning 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>Bay Area BlendEd</p>	<p>Advanced Computer Science: Complexity Theory and Advanced Algorithms Bay Area Cinema & Filmmaking Bay Area Field Ecology</p>	<p>Beats, Rhymes & Life: an Exploration of Hip-Hop, its History & Global Impact California Coastal Oceanography Climate Change: From Science to Action</p>	<p>Creative Writing: Very Short Stories #Entrepreneurship Environmental Justice & the Social Determinants of Health</p>	<p>Introduction to Organic Chemistry Multivariable Calculus Seismic Studies and Earthquake Engineering</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 2013 to 2017

American University.....	3	Kenyon College.....	3	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.....	1
Amherst College.....	3	Lafayette College.....	2	The University of Texas, Austin.....	2
Bard College.....	1	Lake Forest College.....	2	Tufts University.....	7
Barnard College.....	11	Lehigh University.....	2	Tulane University.....	12
Bates College.....	2	Lewis & Clark College.....	2	University College Maastricht.....	1
Bentley University.....	1	Loyola Marymount University.....	2	University of British Columbia.....	1
Berklee College of Music.....	5	Loyola University New Orleans.....	1	University of California	
Boston College.....	1	Macalester College.....	4	Berkeley.....	5
Boston University.....	8	Massachusetts Institute of Technology.....	1	Davis.....	6
Bowdoin College.....	2	McGill University.....	2	Los Angeles.....	16
Brandeis University.....	1	Middlebury College.....	7	Riverside.....	2
Brown University.....	5	Mills College.....	1	Santa Barbara.....	1
Bryn Mawr College.....	2	Muhlenberg College.....	1	Santa Cruz.....	10
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.....	7	New York University.....	24	University of Chicago.....	4
California State University, Chico.....	1	Northeastern University.....	9	University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.....	1
Carleton College.....	4	Northwestern University.....	6	University of Colorado at Boulder.....	2
Carnegie Mellon University.....	1	Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences.....	18	University of Denver.....	4
Case Western Reserve University.....	1	Occidental College.....	8	University of Michigan.....	4
Chapman University.....	3	Oklahoma State University.....	1	University of North Carolina School of the Arts.....	1
Claremont McKenna College.....	1	Oregon State University.....	1	University of Notre Dame.....	1
Clark University.....	2	Pitzer College.....	8	University of Oregon.....	9
Colby College.....	1	Pomona College.....	5	University of Pennsylvania.....	5
Colgate University.....	1	Pratt Institute.....	1	University of Puget Sound.....	5
College of Charleston.....	1	Purdue University.....	1	University of Redlands.....	1
Colorado College.....	2	Reed College.....	8	University of Rhode Island.....	1
Columbia University.....	3	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.....	2	University of Rochester.....	1
Connecticut College.....	2	Rhode Island School of Design.....	3	University of San Francisco.....	2
Cornell University.....	3	Saint Joseph's University.....	1	University of San Francisco.....	1
Dartmouth College.....	3	San Francisco State University.....	2	University of Southern California.....	9
Dickinson College.....	1	Santa Clara University.....	6	University of the Pacific.....	1
Dominican University of California.....	1	Sarah Lawrence College.....	9	University of Vermont.....	2
Drexel University.....	1	Scripps College.....	5	University of Virginia.....	1
Duke University.....	1	Seattle University.....	1	University of Washington.....	1
Eckerd College.....	1	Skidmore College.....	8	Vassar College.....	2
Emerson College.....	1	Smith College.....	2	Wake Forest University.....	4
Emory University.....	1	St. Olaf College.....	1	Washington University in St. Louis.....	4
Fordham University.....	2	Stanford University.....	6	Wesleyan University.....	9
Franklin & Marshall College.....	2	Swarthmore College.....	1	Whitman College.....	4
Georgetown University.....	1	Syracuse University.....	1	Whittier College.....	1
Goucher College.....	1	The American University of Paris.....	1	Willamette University.....	1
Grinnell College.....	1	The College of Wooster.....	1	Williams College.....	1
Hamilton College - NY.....	2	The Evergreen State College.....	1	Worcester Polytechnic Institute.....	2
Hampshire College.....	3	The George Washington University.....	3	Yale University.....	5
Haverford College.....	1	The New School.....	6		
Hobart and William Smith Colleges.....	1	The University of Arizona.....	1		
Indiana University at Bloomington.....	2	The University of Edinburgh.....	1		
Johns Hopkins University.....	4	The University of Iowa.....	1		

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

Grade Point Averages *(unweighted)	Class of 2017 (90 students)		Class of 2016 (89 students)	
	1st Quintile	3.77 - 3.98		3.77 - 3.99
2nd Quintile	3.59 - 3.74		3.66 - 3.76	
3rd Quintile	3.46 - 3.59		3.50 - 3.65	
4th Quintile	3.28 - 3.45		3.31 - 3.49	
5th Quintile	2.57 - 3.28		2.69 - 3.30	
Median	3.51		3.54	

SAT Reasoning	Class of 2017 (50 students tested)		Class of 2016 (71 students tested)			
	Mean	Middle 50%	CR	Math	WR	
			800 - 700	29	20	24
EBRW	690	650 - 720	690 - 600	27	40	33
Math	650	610 - 700	590 - 500	13	10	13
			490 - 400	2	1	1
			Mean	664	656	657

ACT	Class of 2017 (58 tested)		Class of 2016 (28 tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
English	32	28 - 35	31	27 - 35
Math	29	27 - 31	29	26 - 30
Reading	31	27 - 34	31	29 - 33
Science Reasoning	29	26 - 32	29	27 - 32
Composite	30	27- 32	30	27-32

SAT Subject Test	Class of 2017		Class of 2016	
	Mean	# tested	Mean	# tested
Chemistry	675	16	698	15
Literature	642	44	641	56
French	710	5	638	4
Math 2	657	53	651	52
Spanish	659	15	664	19
Physics	690	4	689	8



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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.