

2019-20



# College Admissions Profile



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## 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 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, 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, sailing, soccer, track, softball, tennis and volleyball. More than 65 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 650 applications for the incoming class, and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (78%) and across the Bay Area (22%). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 43% students of color, and for the 2019-20 school year, 30% of the student body will receive \$4.18 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.

We provide AP exam preparation in mathematics, chemistry, world languages and music theory.

## Teaching and Learning at Urban School

**Three-term System:** A leader for more than 50 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 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.

**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 CITYTerm, an experience-based educational program in New York City.

## 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.

### 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.



BAY AREA  
BlendEd  
CONSORTIUM

### Bay Area BlendEd Consortium

Urban is a founding

leader of the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium, a partnership among six 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.



### Environmental Sustainability

Urban offers many classes that address different aspects of our relations 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 field experiences. By taking these classes, including UAS Environmental Science: Ecology, Marine Biology, Entomology: Bugs and Biodiversity 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, Engineering, Computer Science, Industrial Design and more.

**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. 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.

# Curriculum Guide

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> Analytic Geometry</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Space: Group Theory <b>UAS</b> Infinity: Theory of Infinite Sets &amp; Chaos 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 Applied Chemistry: Materials Science <b>UAS</b> Advanced Chemistry A and B</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Chemistry C: Environmental Chemistry <b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Physical Resources <b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Ecology <b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Genetics</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease <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>: World History (A and B) 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>: <b>UAS</b> Making America and <b>UAS</b> Remaking America</p>	<p>South African History Birth of Modern China Comparative Religion Contemporary Issues: Research and Writing Economics</p>	<p>Screening History US Foreign Policy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond The French Revolution Globalization <b>UAS</b> Race in Latin America History</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> Environmental History <b>UAS</b> History of South Asia <b>UAS</b> History of Women In America <b>UAS</b> Modern Middle East</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>Politics and Language Examining the Good Life Journalism+ <b>UAS</b> British Literature: Breaking Boundaries <b>UAS</b> Introduction to Creative Writing</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Russian Literature: Dostoevsky and Chekhov <b>UAS</b> Toni Morrison <b>UAS</b> Advanced Shakespeare <b>UAS</b> American Romanticism <b>UAS</b> Creative Nonfiction <b>UAS</b> Faulkner</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Harlem: Veils of Identity <b>UAS</b> Joyce and Woolf <b>UAS</b> Nigerian Literature <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</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> Theater 1 <b>UAS</b> Theater 2 Peer Education Theater Ensemble Circus Techniques Theater Production (Fall or Winter) One Act Festival Introduction to Urban Singers Introduction to Jazz Band</p>	<p>Introduction to Chamber Orchestra Urban Singers Lab Jazz Band Advanced Jazz Band Chamber Orchestra Advanced Musical Ensemble 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Popular Music Music Theory 1</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Music Theory 2: Composition <b>UAS</b> Music Production &amp; Engineering <b>UAS</b> Applied Music Theory</p> <p><b>Visual Arts</b> Architectural Design Art as a Daily Practice Drawing/Mixed Media Graphic Design</p>	<p>Industrial Design Painting Sculpture: Clay and Mixed Media Photography Video Production Portfolio Prep <b>UAS</b> Advanced Art: Media Arts <b>UAS</b> Advanced Art: Winter Art Show <b>UAS</b> Printmaking <b>UAS</b> Stone Carving</p>
<p><b>Multidisciplinary Courses</b></p>	<p>California Studies Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p>	<p>Global Migration: Who, Where, Why Mathematics of Democracy</p>	<p>Voices of Incarceration <b>UAS</b> Rethinking Poverty</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Theater, Social Change and Community</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 Understanding Systems of Inequity and Resistance</p>
<p><b>Bay Area BlendEd</b></p>	<p>Wilderness Studies: Conservation and Management of Public Lands in the Western US Multivariable Calculus Art History Through Inquiry</p>	<p>Beats, Rhymes &amp; Life Introduction to Psychology Medical Problem Solving Public Health &amp; Vulnerable Populations</p>	<p>Bay Area Cinema &amp; Filmmaking Comic Book Literature # Entrepreneurship &amp; Design Thinking</p>	<p>Ethics: The Good Life Introduction to Organic Chemistry Introduction to Psychology</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 2015 to 2019

American University.....	1	Lafayette College.....	1	The New School - All Divisions.....	5
Amherst College.....	4	Lake Forest College.....	1	The University of Edinburgh.....	1
Bard College.....	2	Lehigh University.....	3	The University of Texas, Austin.....	2
Barnard College.....	11	Lewis & Clark College.....	1	Tufts University.....	7
Bates College.....	4	Loyola Marymount University.....	2	Tulane University.....	15
Bennington College.....	1	Loyola University Chicago.....	1	University College Maastricht.....	1
Berklee College of Music.....	4	Macalester College.....	5	University of British Columbia.....	1
Boston College.....	1	Make College.....	1	University of California, Berkeley.....	4
Boston University.....	8	Marquette University.....	1	University of California, Davis.....	7
Bowdoin College.....	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology.....	1	University of California, Los Angeles.....	16
Brown University.....	13	McGill University.....	4	University of California, Riverside.....	2
Bryn Mawr College.....	1	Middlebury College.....	7	University of California, San Diego.....	1
California Institute of the Arts.....	1	Muhlenberg College.....	1	University of California, Santa Barbara.....	2
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.....	3	New York University.....	25	University of California, Santa Cruz.....	9
California State Polytechnic University Pomona.....	1	Northeastern University.....	14	University of Chicago.....	5
California State University, Channel Islands.....	1	Northwestern University.....	4	University of Colorado at Boulder.....	1
California State University, Chico.....	1	Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences.....	16	University of Denver.....	2
Carleton College.....	1	Occidental College.....	5	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.....	1
Carnegie Mellon University.....	2	Oregon State University.....	1	University of Michigan.....	5
Case Western Reserve University.....	1	Pitzer College.....	9	University of Notre Dame.....	1
Chapman University.....	1	Pomona College.....	6	University of Oregon.....	11
College of Charleston.....	1	Pratt Institute.....	1	University of Pennsylvania.....	4
Colorado College.....	1	Princeton University.....	2	University of Redlands.....	2
Columbia University.....	1	Purdue University.....	1	University of Rhode Island.....	1
Connecticut College.....	1	Reed College.....	7	University of Rochester.....	2
Cornell University.....	5	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.....	1	University of San Diego.....	1
Dartmouth College.....	1	Rhode Island School of Design.....	5	University of San Francisco.....	1
Dominican University of California.....	1	Saint Louis University.....	1	University of Southern California.....	13
Duke University.....	1	San Francisco State University.....	3	University of St Andrews.....	2
Elon University.....	2	Santa Clara University.....	5	University of Vermont.....	3
Emory University.....	2	Sarah Lawrence College.....	8	University of Virginia.....	1
Fordham University.....	5	School of the Art Institute of Chicago.....	1	University of Washington.....	3
Franklin & Marshall College.....	1	Scripps College.....	6	University of Wisconsin, Madison.....	2
Georgetown University.....	1	Seattle University.....	2	Vassar College.....	1
Georgia Institute of Technology.....	1	Skidmore College.....	9	Wake Forest University.....	5
Grinnell College.....	2	Smith College.....	4	Washington University in St. Louis.....	5
Hamilton College - NY.....	2	Stanford University.....	6	Wellesley College.....	2
Harvard College.....	1	Swarthmore College.....	2	Wesleyan University.....	12
Haverford College.....	3	Syracuse University.....	3	Whitman College.....	2
Hobart and William Smith Colleges.....	1	Texas Christian University.....	1	Whittier College.....	1
Indiana University at Bloomington.....	2	The American University of Paris.....	1	Willamette University.....	2
Johns Hopkins University.....	2	The College of Wooster.....	1	Williams College.....	1
Kenyon College.....	5	The Evergreen State College.....	1	Worcester Polytechnic Institute.....	3
		The George Washington University.....	3	Yale University.....	5

99% of our students attend a four-year college or university.

Grade Point Averages (unweighted)	Class of 2019 (90 students)		Class of 2018 (100 students)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
1st Quintile	3.82	4.00	3.77	4.00
2nd Quintile	3.64	3.81	3.62	3.76
3rd Quintile	3.56	3.64	3.51	3.61
4th Quintile	3.27	3.55	3.50	3.30
5th Quintile	2.83	3.27	2.68	3.29
<b>Mean</b>	<b>3.55</b>		<b>3.54</b>	

SAT Reasoning	Class of 2019 (61 students tested)		Class of 2018 (57 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
EBRW	695	660 - 730	710	660 - 735
Math	683	630 - 740	680	630 - 720
<b>Total</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>1295 - 1460</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>1295 - 1435</b>

ACT	Class of 2019 (41 tested)		Class of 2018 (55 tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
English	32	31 - 35	32	31 - 35
Math	28	26 - 31	29	27 - 31
Reading	32	27 - 35	32	32 - 35
Science	29	25 - 31	30	28 - 34
<b>Composite</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26 - 33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30 - 33</b>

SAT Subject Test	Class of 2019			Class of 2018		
	Mean	Middle 50%	# tested	Mean	Middle 50%	# tested
Chemistry	713	690 - 740	10	688	640 - 720	12
English Literature	636	580 - 690	52	651	600 - 700	52
French	638	510 - 750	6	640	510 - 760	5
Math Level II	652	590 - 720	47	662	590 - 720	52
Physics	670	570 - 680	4	681	640 - 700	8
Spanish	665	540 - 770	15	667	620 - 720	26



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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) 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.