

## Mission

Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning, inspiring its students to become self-motivated, enthusiastic participants in their education — both in high school and beyond.

## About

Located adjacent to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, Urban offers a rigorous college preparatory program of academics, arts, athletics and service. With an exceptional faculty and staff of more than 100 persons, Urban combines its challenging academic program with imaginative use of the city and Bay Area as an educational resource. Urban has been at the forefront of educational excellence since our founding in 1966, pioneering nationally regarded innovations such as blended learning, block scheduling, integrated service learning, and the first 1:1 student technology program in a California high school.

## Equity and Inclusion

Equity and Inclusion programming at Urban is designed to embrace difference, learn through challenging conversations, and develop the skills needed to foster relationships in our increasingly multicultural region and world. Students arrive from more than 80 Bay Area and San Francisco middle schools, and we encourage them to share their differences. Urban is one of the few schools in the US to offer four-year programming on social issues, as well as personal and communal identity development. Our courses work in tandem with affinity and ally spaces, and include public forums aimed at helping students learn more about peers with similar backgrounds, while building connections to students who come to Urban with different life and family experiences.



## APPLYING TO URBAN

1. **Create a Ravenna-Hub account.** The link to Ravenna can be found on our website at [www.urbanschool.org/admissions](http://www.urbanschool.org/admissions). Once you've added your prospective student to the account, you can explore and apply to Urban School, all in one easy place! Detailed instructions and checklists on Ravenna will help walk you through each step of the process.
2. **Schedule your events.** All Urban admissions events are optional. However, we encourage you to visit our campus and experience the school firsthand to gain a strong understanding of life, culture and academics at Urban. Schedule an Open House, Student Visit, Parent Information Session and/or optional Student Interview through your Ravenna account.
3. **Complete an application.** The entire application is online. All components, as well as recommendations, SSAT scores and transcripts are submitted through Ravenna. Applications are due **Thursday, January 9, 2020**.
4. **Apply for financial assistance.** Central to the mission of Urban School is a commitment to socio-economic diversity among our students. Urban awards financial assistance based on a family's need and the availability of funds. FA applications, including your Parent Financial Statement (PFS) and 2018 tax return, are due **Thursday, January 9, 2020** with 2019 tax returns due in early February. To apply, please visit [www.solutionsbyss.com/parents](http://www.solutionsbyss.com/parents).

## OPEN HOUSES FOR 2019-20:

### Saturday, October 5, 2019

9 a.m. Athletics Information Session (optional)  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Main Program

### Saturday, October 26, 2019

9 a.m. Athletics Information Session (optional)  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Main Program

### Saturday, December 7, 2019

9 a.m. Athletics Information Session (optional)  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Main Program

Reservations are required for all open houses and other tours and visits.

To learn more about Urban School, please visit our website at [www.urbanschool.org](http://www.urbanschool.org) or contact us at [admissions@urbanschool.org](mailto:admissions@urbanschool.org).

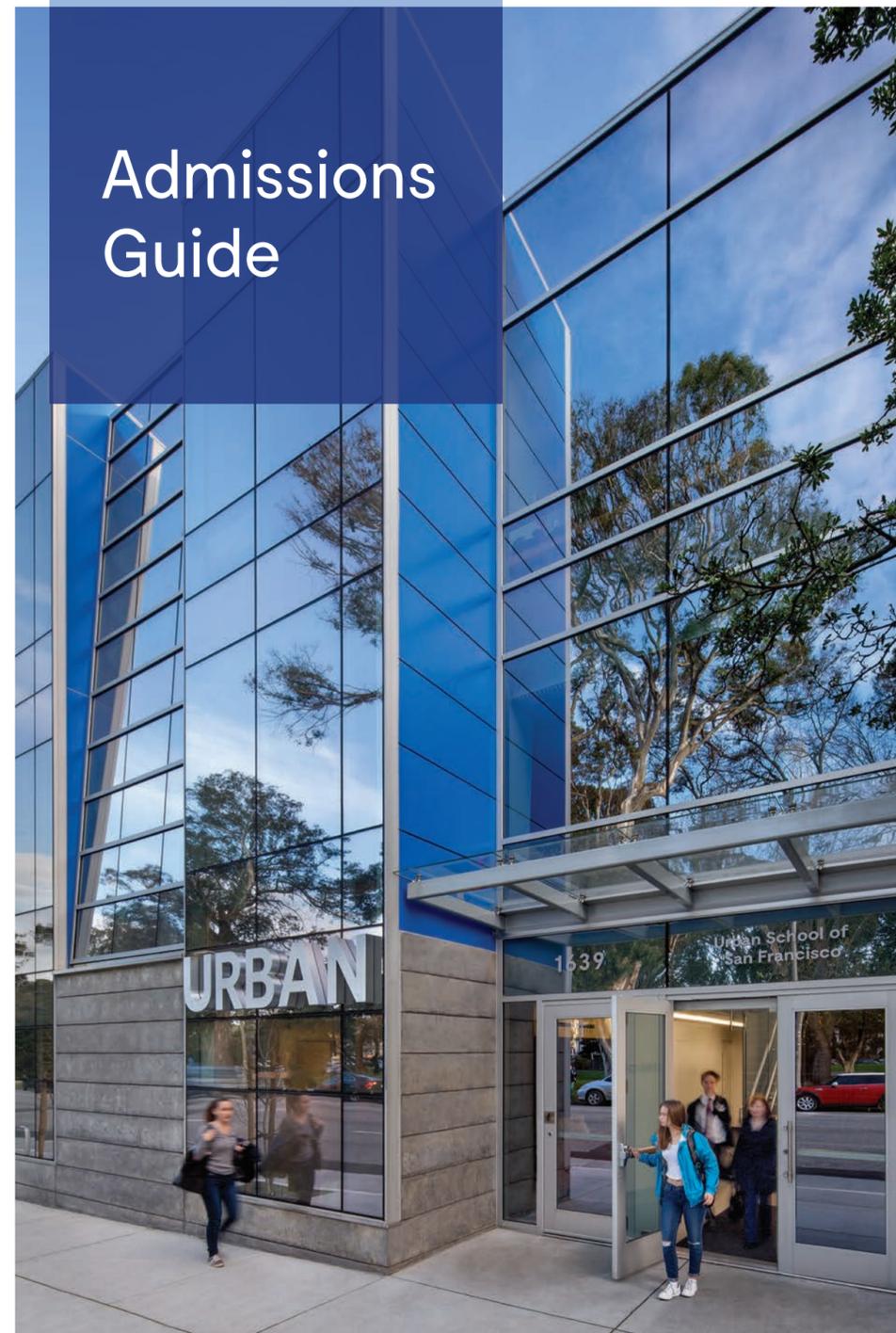


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2019-20



# Admissions Guide



UrbanX Labs is Urban School's integrated and interdisciplinary curricular approach to design, technology and engineering. With offerings like Electronics and Robotics, Materials Science, Advanced Computer Science, Industrial Design, Architectural Design and more, we're teaching students how to develop, design and build their ideas. 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.



Climate change and environmental sustainability will be among the greatest challenges we face in the coming decades. 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. By taking these courses, students expand their knowledge, personal connection and contextualization of key sustainability challenges.



Urban is a founding member of the Bay Area BlendEd Consortium, a group of six regional independent schools offering a unique approach to upper level courses. Now in its sixth year, BlendEd curriculum takes advantage of the geography, talent and culture of the Bay Area. BlendEd courses combine face-to-face and online instruction and help our students prepare for the changing methods of instruction and communication they will see in college and in the workforce. For additional details and a list of courses, please visit [www.urbanschool.org/blended](http://www.urbanschool.org/blended).



## QUICK FACTS 2019-20

**84** DIFFERENT MIDDLE SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

**14** AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**OVER 65%** OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN URBAN ATHLETICS



**42%** STUDENTS OF COLOR

**15** AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING



**1:9** FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO

**\$4.18** MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED TO 30% OF STUDENTS



**132** COLLEGES ACROSS THE U.S. AND 4 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES (Classes of 2015-2019)

**96** FACULTY & STAFF



**45** PERFORMANCES & SHOWCASES

**40+**

STUDENT-LED CLUBS, LEADERSHIP TEAMS & ALLY/AFFINITY SPACES



**420** STUDENTS



**181** COURSES, 65 OF WHICH ARE HONORS LEVEL



**URBAN SCHOOL** believes there is a better way to educate high school students. For more than half a century our educational innovations have ignited the minds of Urban graduates, who pursue their passion for learning at the nation's best colleges, and who go out into the world uniquely equipped to solve the challenges their generation will face.

Urban teaches students how to think, not what to think. We seek students with an enthusiastic approach to learning and a clear capacity for success in a rigorous academic program. Urban's extraordinary teachers challenge our 420 students with a college-preparatory curriculum in math, science, arts and humanities with comprehensive service learning and competitive athletics programs, and a rich selection of co-curricular activities.

The school draws students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco, the East Bay, the Peninsula and Marin, and is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. 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 in and out of the classroom, locally and globally, we instill in our students a consciousness of social justice, an ethic of citizenship, a commitment to service and an education unparalleled in San Francisco.

### Academics

An Urban education is a joyful process of discovery: students learn to ask questions, to search for their own answers, to voice their opinions, to think critically and independently, and to discern with their hearts as well as their minds. All Urban courses share a common educational approach based on the following principles:

- An expectation that students be active participants in their education.
- A commitment to cooperative learning and collaboration among fellow students.
- An understanding and respect for the achievements, experiences and perspectives of various peoples, cultures, races and backgrounds.
- Use of the Bay Area's rich environmental, cultural and intellectual resources to extend learning beyond the classroom.

### Athletics



A member of the Bay Area Conference and Bay Counties League-West, Urban fields title-winning interscholastic teams in baseball, basketball, cross-country, fencing, golf, lacrosse, sailing, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and volleyball at our own gyms and at athletic fields and venues throughout the city. More than 65 percent of all Urban students participate in our competitive athletics program and all students are expected to complete eight physical activity credits.

### Student Life

We believe that high school is an important experience in its own right. Student life is vibrant with student showcase performances, spirit week, dances, and school-wide days and events that foster community, cohesion and enthusiasm in our student body. Urban has more than 40 student clubs, as well as student government, an active outdoor and international trips program, and the student newspaper and yearbook. Dramatic arts opportunities include fall and winter theater productions, circus class performances and the annual One Act Festival. Urban also offers two jazz bands, a chamber orchestra, and the Urban Singers chorus. Our visual arts classes range from film and photography to graphic and industrial design, painting, printmaking, stone carving and sculpture.