



College Admissions Profile

2020-21

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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.

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. Nearly 70% of all Urban students participate in our athletics program.

Admissions

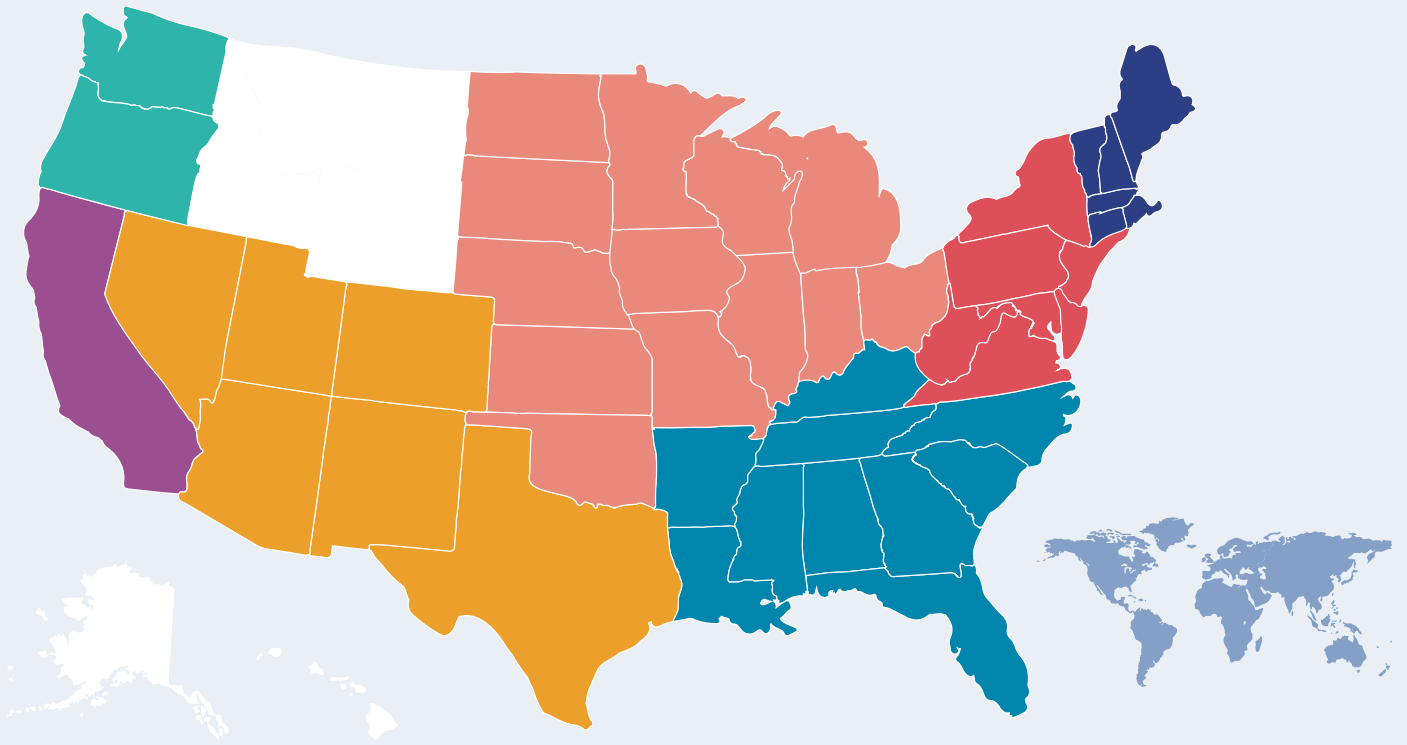
Urban seeks students with an enthusiastic approach to learning and a clear capacity for success in a challenging academic program.

The school received more than 750 applications for the incoming class, and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (86%) and the Bay Area (14%). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 44% students of color, and for the 2020-21 school year, 30% of the student body will receive \$4.49 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.

College Matriculation from 2016 to 2020



Urban graduates between 2016 and 2020 enrolled in 124 colleges across 29 states* and 4 countries

By Region	2016-20	%
● CALIFORNIA	128	27%
● NEW ENGLAND	114	24%
● MID-ATLANTIC	102	21%
● MIDWEST	59	12%
● PACIFIC NORTHWEST	31	6%
● SOUTHEAST	25	5%
● SOUTHWEST	13	3%
● INTERNATIONAL	9	2%

Public/Private	2016-20	%
Private Out-of-State	301	62%
Private In-State	73	15%
Public In-State	55	12%
Public Out-of-State	44	9%
International	9	2%

By Type	2016-20	%
Research University	299	62%
Liberal Arts	168	35%
Arts College	11	2%
Community College	3	1%

*includes District of Columbia

Teaching and Learning at Urban School

Three-term System: 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 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 The School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington, D.C.

Virtual and Hybrid Learning: If you have questions about our academic structure in response to COVID-19, please visit urbanschool.org/about/return for further information.

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.



Bay Area BlendEd Consortium

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.



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 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 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>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: Theory of Infinite Sets & Chaos Theory</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</p>	<p>Geology Human Anatomy and Physiology Applied Chemistry: Materials Science UAS Advanced Chemistry A and B</p>	<p>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: World History (A and B) 10th/11th: UAS Making America and UAS Remaking America</p>	<p>Birth of Modern China Civics and Society Comparative Religion: Our Search for Meaning Contemporary Issues: Research & Writing Economics</p>	<p>The French Revolution Globalization Screening History South African History US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond</p>	<p>UAS America Transformed: 1865-1929 UAS Asian American History UAS Colonial Origins UAS Constitutional Law UAS Contemporary China UAS Environmental History</p>	<p>UAS History of South Asia: Modern South Asia UAS History of Women in America UAS Medieval History UAS Modern Middle East UAS Race in Latin American 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+ UAS Advanced Shakespeare: Power Plays UAS American Romanticism</p>	<p>UAS British Literature: Breaking Boundaries UAS Creative Nonfiction UAS Faulkner UAS Harlem: Veils of Identity UAS Immigrant Legacies: Experimental Literature and Film</p>	<p>UAS Introduction to Creative Writing UAS Latin American Literature UAS Literature of Dystopia and SciFi UAS Modern American Literature</p>	<p>UAS Nigerian Literature UAS Poetry: Form and Meaning UAS Russian Literature: Dostoevsky and Chekhov UAS The Naturalist as Writer UAS Toni Morrison</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 Theater 1: Playing Characters (Including Yourself) Theater 2: Techniques and Styles for Performance Circus Techniques One Acts Festival Peer Education Theater Theater Production UAS Musical Theater Production</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Industrial Design Painting Photography Portfolio Prep Sculpture: Clay and Mixed Media Video Production UAS Advanced Art Exhibition UAS Media Arts UAS Printmaking UAS Stone Carving</p>
<p>Multidisciplinary Courses</p>	<p>California Studies Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p>	<p>Global Migration: Who, Where, Why Mathematics of Democracy</p>	<p>Voices of Incarceration UAS Rethinking Poverty</p>	<p>UAS Theater, Social Change and Community</p>
<p>Service Learning Two credits required, distributed over four years</p>	<p>9th Grade Service Learning: Identity and Ethnic Studies / 9th Grade Health</p>	<p>10th Grade Service Learning: Identity and Community Partnerships / 10th Grade Health</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>Bay Area BlendEd</p>	<p>American Politics Bay Area Cinema & Filmmaking Case Studies in Medicine</p>	<p>Entrepreneurship & Design Thinking Financial Literacy Intro to Organic Chemistry Intro to Psychology</p>	<p>Laid to Rest: Burial Grounds of the Bay Multivariable Calculus Oaktown: A Multifaceted Deep Dive in an Era of Gentrification</p>	<p>Public Health & Vulnerable Populations Wilderness Studies</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

Grade Point Averages *(unweighted)	Class of 2020 (116 graduates)		Class of 2019 (90 students)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
1st Quintile	3.77	3.77 - 4.00	3.82	3.82 - 4.00
2nd Quintile	3.63	3.63 - 3.75	3.64	3.64 - 3.81
3rd Quintile	3.50	3.50 - 3.62	3.56	3.56 - 3.64
4th Quintile	3.30	3.30 - 3.49	3.27	3.27 - 3.55
5th Quintile	2.48	2.48 - 3.29	2.83	2.83 - 3.27
Mean	3.53		3.55	

SAT Reasoning	Class of 2020 (60 students tested)		Class of 2019 (61 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
EBRW	686	645 - 745	695	660 - 730
Math	671	620 - 730	683	630 - 740
Total	1357	1265 - 1465	1379	1295 - 1460

ACT	Class of 2020 (77 tested)		Class of 2019 (41 tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
English	32	29 - 35	32	31 - 35
Math	28.4	26 - 31	28	26 - 31
Reading	32.2	28 - 35	32	27 - 35
Science	29.4	26 - 33	29	25 - 31
Composite	30.3	28 - 33	30	26 - 33

SAT Subject Test	Class of 2020			Class of 2019		
	Mean	Middle 50%	# tested	Mean	Middle 50%	# tested
Chemistry	697	630 - 740	12	713	690 - 740	10
English Literature	652	590 - 710	42	636	580 - 690	52
French	NA	NA	NA	638	510 - 750	6
Math Level II	672	600 - 730	45	652	590 - 720	47
Physics	680	630 - 720	6	670	570 - 680	4
Spanish	671	620 - 750	15	665	540 - 770	15



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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.