

2024-25

# SCHOOL PROFILE



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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, flag football, golf, lacrosse, sailing, soccer, track, softball, tennis and volleyball. On average, around 75% 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 600 applications for the incoming class, and we draw students from public, independent and parochial schools in San Francisco (91%) and the Bay Area (9%). Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area. Our student body comprises 48% students of color, and for the 2024-25 school year, 30% of the student body will receive \$5.23 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.

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## 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.
- » **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), and our advanced UAS Computer Science 2 and 3 are college-level classes that prepare students for programming in any language.

# CURRICULUM GUIDE

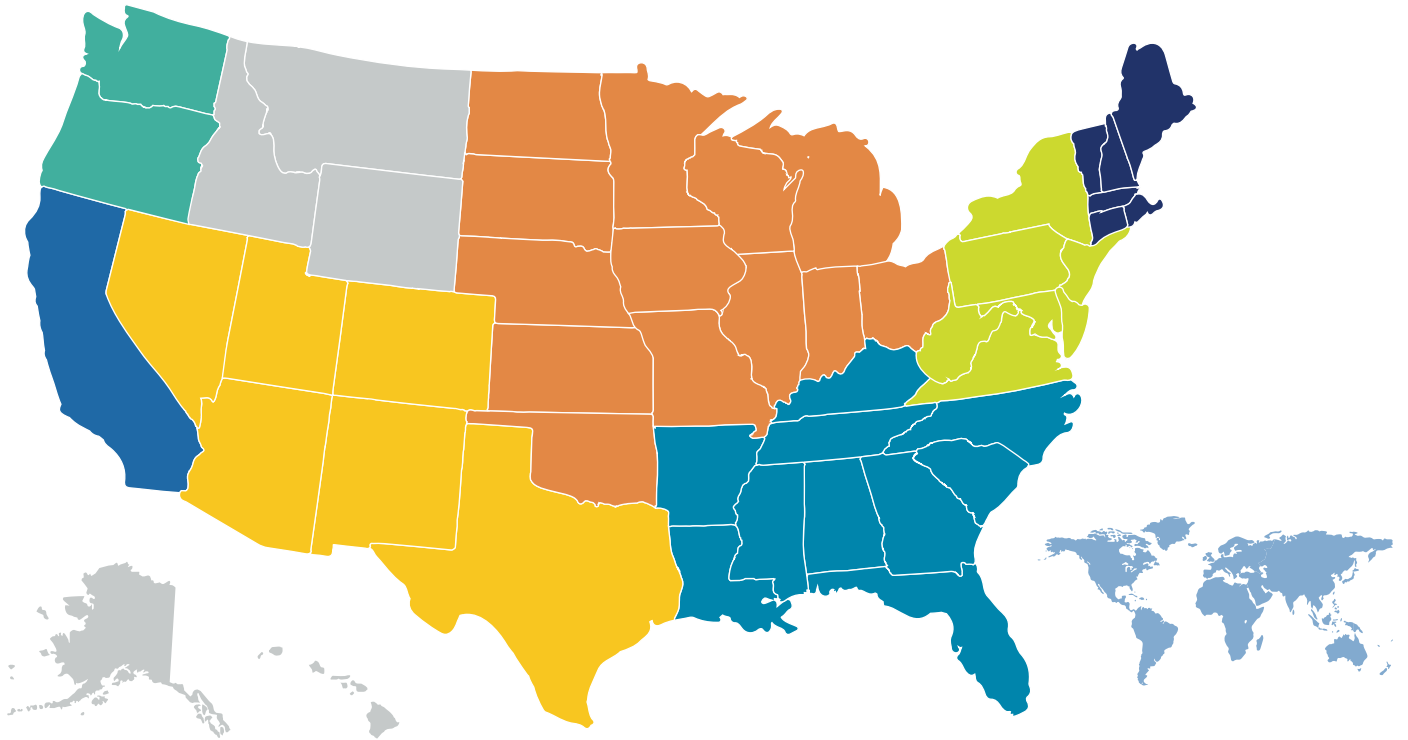
UAS denotes Urban Advanced Studies, Urban's most rigorous coursework.

While no longer an active member of the BlendEd Consortium, some student transcripts may include an accredited BlendEd course.

<p><b>Math</b></p> <p>Three credits required</p> <p>Math 1A and B*</p> <p>Math 2A and B</p> <p>Math 3A and B</p>	<p>Advanced Math Applications</p> <p>Data Science</p> <p>Discrete Mathematics</p> <p>Statistics &amp; Probability</p>	<p>Computer Science 1</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Computer Science 2</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Computer Science 3</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Functions</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Calculus A and B</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Analytic Geometry</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Space: Group Theory</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Infinity: Theory of Infinite Sets &amp; Chaos Theory</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Two credits required</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup>: Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B (bio/chem)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup>: Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B (bio/chem)</p>	<p>Applied Physics: Electronics &amp; Robotics</p> <p>Applied Physics: Motion &amp; Machines</p> <p>Applied Chemistry: Materials Science</p> <p>Astronomy</p>	<p>Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Human Anatomy and Physiology</p> <p>Marine Biology</p> <p>Neuroscience</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Genetics</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Chemistry A and B</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Ecology</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Environmental Science: Physical Resources</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Electricity and Magnetism</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Mechanics</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Physics: Waves and Light</p>
<p><b>History</b></p> <p>Two credits required</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup>: World History (A and B)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>: <b>UAS</b> Making America and <b>UAS</b> Remaking America</p>	<p>Birth of Modern China</p> <p>Civics and Society</p> <p>Comparative Religion: Our Search for Meaning</p> <p>Economics</p>	<p>The French Revolution</p> <p>Globalization</p> <p>Screening History</p> <p>South African History</p> <p>US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> America Transformed: 1865-1929</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Asian American History</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Constitutional Law</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Environmental History</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> History of South Asia: Modern South Asia</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Women's United States History</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Modern Middle East</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Race in Latin American History</p>
<p><b>English</b></p> <p>Children's Literature</p> <p>Examining the Good Life</p> <p>Immigrant Legacies: A Literature of Innovation</p> <p>Literature and Film</p>	<p>Naturalist as Writer: Environmental Change and Justice</p> <p>Poetry: Form and Meaning</p> <p>Stories on Stage</p> <p><b>UAS</b> American Romanticism</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> British Literature: Breaking Boundaries</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Creative Nonfiction</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Introduction to Creative Writing</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Latin American Literature</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Literature of Dystopia and Sci Fi</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Modern American Literature</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Nigerian Literature</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Russian Literature: Dostoevsky and Chekhov</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Shakespeare</p> <p><b>UAS</b> The Unconscious: Stories and Theories</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Toni Morrison</p> <p><b>UAS</b> William Faulkner and Marlon James: Stop Making Sense</p>
<p><b>World Languages</b></p> <p>Three credits required*</p>	<p>Chinese 1-3</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Chinese 4-6</p>	<p>French 1-3</p> <p><b>UAS</b> French 4-6</p>	<p>Spanish 1-3</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Spanish 4-6</p>	
<p><b>Visual and Performing Arts</b></p> <p>Two credits required</p>	<p><b>Performing Arts</b></p> <p>Circus Techniques</p> <p>Essentials of Comedy</p> <p>One Acts Festival</p> <p>Peer Education Theater</p> <p>Theater 1: Performance Lab</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Musical Theater Production</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Theater 2: Performance Ensemble</p>	<p><b>UAS</b> Theater Production</p> <p>Introduction to Urban Singers</p> <p>Urban Singers</p> <p>Introduction to Jazz Band</p> <p>Lab Jazz Band</p> <p>Advanced Jazz Band</p> <p>Introduction to Chamber Orchestra</p> <p>Chamber Orchestra</p> <p>Advanced Musical Ensemble</p>	<p>Music Theory 1</p> <p>20th Century American Popular Music: From Ragtime to Rap</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Applied Music Theory: Tools for Performing Musicians</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Music Production and Engineering</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Music Theory 2: Composition</p> <p>Painting</p>	<p>Photography</p> <p>Sculpture: Clay and Mixed Media</p> <p>Video Production</p> <p>Wanderlust: Explorations of an Infinite City</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Art Exhibition</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Advanced Media Arts</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Printmaking</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Stone Carving</p>
<p><b>Multidisciplinary Courses</b></p>	<p>California Studies</p> <p>Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p>	<p>Homelands: Discovering Diaspora through Oral History + Media</p>	<p>Mathematics of Democracy</p> <p>Journalism</p> <p>Queer Theater History</p>	<p>Voices of Incarceration</p> <p><b>UAS</b> Rethinking Poverty</p>
<p><b>Service Learning</b></p> <p>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>Service Learning 11: Independent Internship and Seminar: Identity at Urban and Beyond</p>	<p>Service Learning 12: Independent Internship and Understanding Systems of Inequity and Resistance</p>

\* Some students may test into second year math or language as incoming 9th graders. Courses are subject to change annually.

# College Matriculation from 2020 to 2024



Urban graduates between 2020 and 2024 enrolled in 139 colleges across 31 states\* and 5 countries.

By Region	Number of Students	
	2020-24	%
CALIFORNIA	169	32%
NEW ENGLAND	104	20%
MID-ATLANTIC	105	20%
MIDWEST	48	9%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	34	6%
SOUTHEAST	26	5%
SOUTHWEST	24	5%
INTERNATIONAL	15	3%

Public/Private	Number of Students	
	2020-24	%
Private Out-of-State	291	55%
Private In-State	88	17%
Public In-State	81	15%
Public Out-of-State	50	10%
International	15	3%

By Type	2020-24	%
Research University	349	66%
Liberal Arts	163	32%
Arts College	10	2%
Community College	3	<1%

\*includes District of Columbia

## Averaged GPA Distribution

	Class of 2024 (113 students)		Class of 2023 (99 students)
<b>1st Quintile</b>	4.00 - 3.85	<b>1st Quintile</b>	3.99 - 3.91
<b>2nd Quintile</b>	3.84 - 3.75	<b>2nd Quintile</b>	3.90 - 3.72
<b>3rd Quintile</b>	3.74 - 3.57	<b>3rd Quintile</b>	3.71 - 3.59
<b>4th Quintile</b>	3.56 - 3.45	<b>4th Quintile</b>	3.57 - 3.36
<b>5th Quintile</b>	3.44 - 2.79	<b>5th Quintile</b>	3.34 - 2.88

## SAT Summary

Please note that in both the 2023-24 and 2022-23 school years, students in Northern California have had marked difficulty accessing local standardized testing.

	Class of 2024 (31 students tested)		Class of 2023 (31 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
Evidence Based Reading and Writing	688	655 - 740	701	660 - 750
Math	694	640 - 775	696	650 - 760
<b>Total</b>	<b>1381</b>	<b>1310 - 1485</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>1310 - 1520</b>

## ACT Summary

Please note that in both the 2023-24 and 2022-23 school years, students in Northern California have had marked difficulty accessing local standardized testing.

	Class of 2024 (46 students tested)		Class of 2023 (46 students tested)	
	Mean	Middle 50%	Mean	Middle 50%
English	32	29 - 35	32	30 - 35
Math	28	25 - 30	28	26 - 31
Reading	32	29 - 36	33	31 - 36
Science	30	26 - 34	30	26 - 33
<b>Composite</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27 - 34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29 - 33</b>

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.

