



SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-26

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Urban School of San Francisco: Learning in the Heart of the City

In the heart of San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood, Urban is a nationally-recognized leader among secondary schools. At Urban, the city is more than a backdrop — it's our classroom, our canvas, and our compass.

Founded in 1966 on principles of inclusion, creativity, academic rigor, and real-world relevance, Urban fosters a community where students are known, challenged, and supported. An Urban education measures success by cultivating deep thinkers and engaged citizens: people who are curious, empathetic, imaginative, and determined to make a difference. Our community thrives on meaningful relationships between teachers and students, an environment of mutual respect and accountability, and the belief that learning should be rooted in curiosity and connection.

- » Grades 9 - 12
- » 420 students
- » 1:10 faculty to student ratio
- » 15 average class size
- » 66% of faculty hold advanced degrees
- » 174 courses; 68 honors-level (UAS)
- » 56% students of color
- » 30% of students receive financial assistance

Understanding Urban: Curriculum, Culture, and Community

Three Term Schedule

Academic year divided into three 12-week terms (Fall, Winter, Spring).

Two terms equal one year in a subject.

Immersive Coursework

Students take four classes per term and all classes are college preparatory, with extended periods multiple times each week allowing for concentrated learning, interdisciplinary projects, and college-like labs.

Academic Evaluation

Written reports are provided twice per term: at the midpoint and at the end of each 12-week term. **A final letter grade is given at the end of every course.** Cycles of ongoing teacher feedback, as well as an emphasis on student self-reflection, emphasize a growth mindset, collaboration, and self-advocacy.

Urban Advanced Studies (UAS)

68 honors-level courses designed by Urban faculty.* **UAS courses are the most rigorous on offer and are recognized as "honors level"** by all colleges, including the University of California system.

Four-Year Service Learning

Structured four-year service curriculum engages students in conversations about identity, equity, and community impact, with site placements across the San Francisco Bay Area.

Four-Year Arts Program

Core visual, musical, and performing arts are built into our academic requirements across all four years.

Integrated Fieldwork

Extended class periods allow for regular excursions so that museums, artist studios, natural (and manmade) ecosystems, archives, courthouses, prisons, shelters (and more) extend the classroom into the city.

UrbanX Labs

An innovation hub where students engage in both rigorous academic and hands-on, interdisciplinary work in courses like robotics, engineering, physics, and computer science, bringing theory to life through advanced design and prototyping with professional tools and expert mentorship.

Mathematics

Urban's math program is organized around integrated **Math 1, 2, and 3** courses, which are close to traditional Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2; and **Functions** equates to precalculus. Urban elective offerings include highly conceptual options, such as the honors-level **UAS Infinity** and **UAS Space** (both as rigorous as **UAS Calculus**), and our advanced **UAS Computer Science 2 and 3** are college-level classes that prepare students for programming in any language.

Multidisciplinary Approach

Electives such as **California Studies**, **UAS Infectious Disease**, and **Voices of Incarceration** are academically intense and focus beyond the traditional classroom to engage today's most pressing issues.

Foundations to Fluency

Math, science, and world language classes use a "spiral" method, revisiting key concepts with increasing depth and intensifying alignment with college-level coursework.

Understanding Urban: Curriculum, Culture, and Community

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, Climate Change**, and **UAS The Naturalist as Writer**, students expand their knowledge of, personal connection with, and contextualization of key sustainability challenges.

Affinity & Ally Spaces

More than 15 identity-based spaces foster belonging and inclusion, culminating each year in the student-led "Month of Understanding" — a school-wide series of events, discussions, performances, and celebrations.

Student-Led Culture

Urban features 40+ student clubs, leadership in governance and campus life, and direct input into school decision-making, as well as a robust journalism program with multiple publications that appear throughout the year.

Wellness Embedded in Schedule

Tutorials, advising, and mental health supports are intentionally structured into the week, along with periods for co-curricular recreation.

Athletics

74% of students participate in sports — fostering teamwork, resilience, and school spirit no matter the level of ability.

Admissions

Urban is highly selective, and seeks students with an enthusiastic approach to learning and a clear capacity for success in a challenging academic program:

- » Approximately 650-700 applications annually.
- » Students come from public, independent, and parochial schools.
- » Urban is committed to reflecting the ethnic, racial, and socio-economic diversity of the Bay Area.
- » \$5.72 million in financial aid annually.

Graduation Requirements	22 academic credits (a typical course is ½ credit; 1 credit = 1 year of coursework, so 2 terms in a subject = 1 year of coursework)	
English Requirement	4 years (including world literature and Composition)	
History Requirement	2 years (including 1 year US History; 1 year World History)	
Math Requirement	3 years	
Science Requirement	2 years (including Biology and Chemistry)	
World Language Requirement	3 years of the same language	
Arts Requirement	4-year program with 2 required credits in visual or performing arts	
Service Learning	4-year program with 2 required credits	
Health Education	Required in 9th and 10th grade (Pass/Fail)	
Physical Activity	Required for all students (non-credit)	
College Matriculation	136 colleges across 33 states and six countries (2021-2025)	
Accreditation	WASC; member of NAIS, CAIS, NACAC	
SAT Middle 50% (Class of 2025)	1305-1485	
ACT Middle 50% (Class of 2025)	27-34	
GPA Quintiles (Class of 2025 and Class of 2024)	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2024
	1st: 3.99-3.86	1st: 4.00-3.85
	2nd: 3.84-3.72	2nd: 3.84-3.75
	3rd: 3.71-3.53	3rd: 3.74-3.57
	4th: 3.52-3.37	4th: 3.56-3.45
	5th: 3.36-2.72	5th: 3.44-2.79



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Curriculum Guide



College Matriculation List 2021-2025

* Urban does not offer AP courses, though we do support students interested in AP testing with prep and study resources.

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>Math</p> <p>Three credits required*</p> <p>Math 1A and 1B</p> <p>Math 2A and 2B</p>	<p>Math 3A and 3B</p> <p>Advanced Math Applications</p> <p>UAS Analytic Geometry</p>	<p>UAS Calculus A and B</p> <p>Computer Science 1</p> <p>UAS Computer Science 2</p> <p>UAS Computer Science 3</p>	<p>Data Science</p> <p>Discrete Mathematics: Puzzles and Graphs</p> <p>UAS Functions</p>	<p>UAS Infinity: Theory of Infinite Sets and Chaos Theory</p> <p>Statistics & Probability</p> <p>UAS Space: Group Theory</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Two credits required</p> <p>Fundamentals of Science 1A and 1B</p> <p>Fundamentals of Science 2A and 2B</p>	<p>Applied Physics: Electronics & Robotics</p> <p>Applied Physics: Motion & Machines</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Human Anatomy and Physiology</p> <p>Marine Biology</p>	<p>Neuroscience</p> <p>UAS Advanced Biology: Genetics</p> <p>UAS Advanced Biology: Infectious Disease</p> <p>UAS Advanced Chemistry A and B</p>	<p>UAS Advanced Physics: Electricity & Magnetism</p> <p>UAS Advanced Physics: Mechanics</p> <p>UAS Advanced Physics: Waves & Light</p> <p>UAS Environmental Science: Ecology</p>	<p>UAS Environmental Science: Physical Resources</p> <p>Applied Chemistry: Materials Science</p> <p>Astronomy</p> <p>Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p>
<p>History</p> <p>Two credits required</p> <p>World History (A)</p> <p>World History (B)</p> <p>UAS Making America</p> <p>UAS Remaking America</p>	<p>Birth of Modern China</p> <p>Civics and Society</p> <p>French Revolution</p> <p>Screening History</p> <p>South African History</p> <p>UAS Asian American History</p>	<p>UAS Constitutional Law Economics</p> <p>UAS Environmental History</p> <p>US Foreign Policy in the 20th Century and Beyond</p> <p>UAS Modern Middle East</p>	<p>History of Queer Theater</p> <p>UAS Race in Latin American History</p> <p>UAS History of South Asia</p> <p>UAS Women's United States History</p>	<p>UAS America Transformed: 1865-1929</p> <p>Comparative Religion: Our Search for Meaning</p> <p>Globalization</p>
<p>English</p> <p>Four credits required</p> <p>English 1A: Stories of Us</p> <p>English 1B: Journeys</p> <p>English 2A: American Voices</p> <p>English 2B: Languages of Love and Power</p>	<p>UAS British Literature: Breaking Boundaries</p> <p>UAS Creative Nonfiction Immigrant Legacies: A Literature of Innovation</p> <p>UAS Latin American Literature</p> <p>UAS Literature of Dystopia and Sci Fi</p>	<p>UAS Modern American Literature</p> <p>The Naturalist as Writer: Environmental Change and Justice</p> <p>Poetry: Form and Meaning</p> <p>UAS Shakespeare</p> <p>UAS The Unconscious: Stories and Theories</p>	<p>Voices of Incarceration</p> <p>Journalism</p> <p>UAS American Romanticism</p> <p>Children's Literature</p> <p>Examining the Good Life</p> <p>UAS Introduction to Creative Writing</p>	<p>UAS Nigerian Literature</p> <p>UAS Russian Literature</p> <p>Stories on Stage</p> <p>UAS Toni Morrison</p> <p>UAS William Faulkner and Marlon James: Stop Making Sense</p>
<p>World Languages</p> <p>Three credits required*</p>	<p>Chinese 1-3</p> <p>UAS Chinese 4-6</p>	<p>French 1-3</p> <p>UAS French 4-6</p>	<p>Spanish 1-3</p> <p>UAS Spanish 4-6</p>	
<p>Service Learning</p> <p>Two credits required, distributed over four years</p>	<p>Service Learning 9 — Self: Identity and Ethnic Studies</p>	<p>Service Learning 10 — Stories: Empathy in Community</p>	<p>Service Learning 11 — Social Movements: Organizing for Justice</p>	<p>Service Learning 12 — Systems: Solidarity + Narratives of Resilience</p>
<p>Visual and Performing Arts</p> <p>Two credits required</p>	<p>Architectural Design</p> <p>Drawing/Mixed Media</p> <p>Graphic Design</p> <p>Industrial Design</p> <p>UAS Media Arts</p> <p>Painting</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>UAS Printmaking</p> <p>Sculpture: Clay and Mixed Media</p> <p>UAS Stone Carving</p> <p>Video Production</p>	<p>UAS Advanced Art Exhibition</p> <p>Art as a Daily Practice</p> <p>Portfolio Prep</p> <p>Wanderlust: Explorations of an Infinite City</p> <p>Chamber Orchestra</p> <p>Advanced Musical Ensemble</p> <p>UAS Advanced Theater: Musical Production</p> <p>UAS Advanced Theater: Theater Production</p> <p>Essentials of Comedy</p>	<p>One Acts Festival</p> <p>Peer Education Theater</p> <p>Technical Theater</p> <p>Theater 1: Performance Lab</p> <p>Circus Techniques</p> <p>UAS Theater 2: Performance Ensemble</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>Music Theory 1</p> <p>UAS Music Theory 2: Composition</p> <p>UAS Music Production and Engineering</p> <p>20th Century American Popular Music: From Ragtime to Rap</p> <p>UAS Applied Music Theory: Tools for Performing Musicians</p>
<p>Multidisciplinary Courses</p>	<p>California Studies</p> <p>History of Queer Theater</p>	<p>Homelands: Discovering Diaspora through Oral History and Media</p>	<p>Voices of Incarceration</p> <p>Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions</p>	<p>Global Migration: Who, Where, Why</p> <p>Mathematics of Democracy</p>

* Some students may test into 2nd or 3rd year math or language as incoming 9th graders. Courses are subject to change annually.