

**Urbana High School
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COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Urbana is a community of about 40,500 residents located in East Central Illinois, a very fertile agricultural area 130 miles south of Chicago. It is a twin city with Champaign for a combined population of just over 100,000. Major sources of employment are education, health care, computer technology, agriculture, manufacturing, and service fields. Urbana is home to the University of Illinois with its population of 36,000 students.

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION/FACULTY PROFILE

Established as the public high school for the city of Urbana in 1872 and now serving over 1,100 students, Urbana High School is the only high school of Urbana School District 116. Other District 116 schools include six elementary schools and one middle school. Urbana High School has over 100 certified faculty members. With an average of 14 years of teaching experience, 53% of Urbana School District teachers hold a Master's degree or above.

STUDENT PROFILE/SCHOOL COMPOSITION

As the only public high school in District 116, the student body is quite diverse in regard to academic, cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. The University of Illinois Family Student Housing is located in Urbana, contributing many foreign students. Racial/ethnic background of the high school is 48.4% white, 34.1% black, 5.1% Hispanic, 6.2% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 0.2% Native American, and 6.1% multi/racial/ethnic.

51.6% of UHS students are low income, 3.5% are limited English proficient, and the dropout rate is 0.4%.

GRADING/GPA/RANK

Urbana High School has a traditional school calendar, which is divided into two eighteen week semesters and an optional six-week summer session. Each semester, students may take six or seven 50-minute classes each day.

Semester grades are used for generating credit, grade point average (GPA), and class rank. UHS uses a weighted grading system in which accelerated or honors level academic courses (indicated by an asterisk on the transcript) are given an additional honor point when calculating GPA. All GPAs are reported on a scale of 5.0, with some students earning a GPA over 5.0.

Credit toward graduation is awarded for all courses with grades A through D- and P. The P grade is not included with calculating the GPA/rank of the student.

A grade of "I" (Incomplete) indicates work not completed and no credit is awarded until it is made up. A grade of "WD" indicates a student withdrew from a course without penalty to the GPA/rank. A grade of "WF" indicates a student is withdrawn with a failing grade. A "WF" grade is considered the same as a grade of "F" when calculating the GPA/rank (no credit is earned).

GRADING POINTS SCALE/WEIGHTED GRADES

Urbana High School adopted a two-level weighted grade system which began during the 1986-87 school year. Weighting is done by adding one (1) honor point to the grade a student earns in courses designed as being weighted. However, no weight is added if a student earns a grade of D or a failing grade (F or WF) in the

course. Weighted courses or required courses cannot be taken pass/fail. Weighted courses are designated by an asterisk (*) preceding the name of the course or a special notation following the course.

Numeric values for grades are as follows:

GRADE	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED (*)
A	5.00	6.00
A-	4.75	5.75
B+	4.25	5.25
B	4.00	5.00
B-	3.75	4.75
C+	3.25	4.25
C	3.00	4.00
C-	2.75	3.75
D+	2.25	3.25
D	2.00	3.00
D-	1.75	2.75
F	1.00	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – CLASS OF 2010

A total of 45 credits are required to meet graduation requirements. One credit represents ½ Carnegie Unit. All courses receive one credit per 18 week semester unless identified differently in the course description book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

(Expressed in number of semesters)

- 6 English (grades 9, 10, and 11)
- 6 Mathematics
- 4 Science (2 Physical Science, 2 Life Science)
- 2 American Studies-Social Studies (U.S. History)
- 1 American Government
- 2 World Studies-Social Studies
- 1 Consumer Education equivalent
- 7 Physical Education
- 1 Health
- 2 Art/Foreign Language/Music/Vocational Ed

Notes on graduation requirements:

- All science courses include lab experiences
- Consumer Ed requirement may be met by passing the state consumer education proficiency test or by taking one of several courses (indicated with a “+” preceding course title on the transcript).
- All core academic courses are “college prep.”

AP OFFERINGS

Urbana High School offers 13 AP courses: English Literature and Composition, Studio Art, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C, Biology, Macroeconomics, American History, Comparative Government, Calculus AB and BC, Spanish, and German.

Urbana High School is an AP Center, and students may take any of the examinations offered if they feel qualified. Students may elect to prepare for the AP exams on an independent basis with teachers in *French 9-10. Students are not limited in the number of AP courses they may take.

In May of 2009, 46 students took a total of 71 Advanced Placement (AP) exams: 85% of these exams were rated at a 3 or higher.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Complete course descriptions are available from the UHS Guidance and Counseling Home Page at www.usd116.org/uhs/guidance.

CLASS OF 2009

Class size: 222

Average Composite ACT for those reporting a core curriculum: 22.4

Average Composite ACT for all students: 21.1

45% plan to enroll in a 4-year college

32% plan to enroll in a 2-year college

ACCREDITATION

Urbana High School is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and High Schools and by the Illinois State Board of Education.

