

Admission and Lottery Policy

The UHS curriculum is unique. In general, all students take a prescribed curriculum each year, with little variation. Each year, the entire class of students rolls over together into the next grade level (e.g. freshmen become sophomores, sophomores become juniors). Because of the unusual nature of the curriculum sequence, and the rigor required of students, mid year transfer students must provide transcripts and meet with UHS administrators.

Students are typically accepted during their 8th grade year for admission to the 9th grade (using the policies outlined below). University High School admits students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades only as capacity permits.

Admissions for the four grade levels at UHS are summarized below.

Grade 9

1. Students apply for admission to the Charter School during the open enrollment period usually held in January and February of each year.
2. Applications are found on the website and in the school office.
3. When applications are submitted, they are screened by UHS staff for completeness and accuracy. Attempts are made to contact students/parents to revise incomplete applications.
4. After the open enrollment period ends, all completed applications are screened by multiple site personnel to determine whether they meet the admission requirements.
5. Applicants not meeting admission requirements are notified that their application is ineligible for admission.
6. The Charter School determines the number of openings in the freshman class. This number is based on attrition rates at the higher grades, and usually centers around approximately 135 openings.
7. If the number of applications is less than the number of openings for the freshman class, all applicants are admitted for the following school year and students are notified in late February, early March.
8. In accordance with Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(B), University High School has established admissions preferences in the event applications exceed capacity and a public random drawing must be conducted to determine admission. First, the Charter School admits all siblings of current UHS students. The sibling exemption only applies to 8th graders applying for admission to 9th grade, who have a sibling who is currently enrolled in grade 9, 10, or 11 at UHS. These students are exempted from the lottery,

provided their number does not exceed the number of openings (if it does, a lottery would be run among just the sibling group). Second, the Charter School admits children of employees, up to 10% of total enrollment. This category is also exempted.

9. Third, based on instrumental or choral needs the Charter School may further select a small group of students who will be granted admission, not to exceed 20% of the total 9th grade openings. The process is handled as follows. (a) The Charter School identifies the musical needs based on current enrollment and with the knowledge of which students will be graduating. (b) The music teachers review the applications of those who apply, specifically using the music evaluations to help them evaluate the students who fit the instrumental or choral needs of the Charter School. (c) The music teachers may ask students, within a certain instrumental or choral group, if they wish to come to the Charter School to audition for the teacher. Students asked will have the option of doing so or declining without prejudice. (d) The music teachers make recommendations to the Charter School administration as to who would best fulfill the stated school needs. The Charter School administration considers the requests and makes the final determination. These selected students are exempted from the lottery.

10. Students who are eligible to receive Free or Reduced Price Meals (“FRPM”) and District residents are given admission preference, but not exemption, from the lottery. UHS will conduct an audit following the lottery to ensure that students claiming to be FRPM-eligible, truly are. If a student utilizing this preference is found to be ineligible, his or her offer of admission may be rescinded, in which case the student’s name will be added to the end of the waitlist. During the application process, student addresses are checked to determine if the student resides within FUSD. If verification does determine the student resides in the District, then they will be given a preference in the lottery.

11. Preferences and the lottery are handled as follows. The lottery will be a random public lottery. The Charter School announces the time and place of the lottery on its website. All applications for the lottery are issued three randomly generated admissions numbers. If the student is a District resident, he or she is issued an additional number, for a total of (4). If a student qualifies for the FRPM preference, he or she is also issued two additional numbers for the lottery for a total of (5), or (6) numbers, if he or she also resides in the District. The Charter School usually uses a number generator to produce the amount of lottery numbers for the lottery. As numbers are called, selected students are identified. Once a student is selected, his or her other numbers become null and void.

12. Twins or triplets without siblings currently attending UHS are counted as one lottery participant who, if selected, grants admission to all same age siblings. In this way, either all or none of the family are admitted.

13. Those selected in the lottery are notified of admission. Those who are not are placed on a waitlist.

14. As openings arise, the Charter School will use the waitlist to determine admission. The Charter School adheres to the waitlist until the school year begins, at that point the waitlist is extinguished.

Grades 10, 11, and 12

1. UHS staff may schedule conveniently-timed meetings for all transfer students and their parents/guardians. During this meeting, UHS and the family will review the student's transcripts and the Charter School's graduation requirements.

2. After April 30th, the Charter School will determine the capacity for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

3. If the number of students meeting the requirements for admission exceeds the number of openings at the various grade levels, the lottery procedures outlined previously will be utilized.

Foreign Exchange students not on a diploma track may be admitted for either the junior or senior year as space permits.