



# University Laboratory High School

at the University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign

## Admissions Process

University Laboratory High School – or “Uni” as it is better known – is one of the great public high schools in the United States. It began in 1876 as a college preparatory school for the University of Illinois. In 1910 it was additionally charged to be a laboratory school for the study of applied methods of teaching. As such, Uni provides a balanced educational program for intellectual, creative, social, and physical development.

The current Uni High has a competitive admissions process and invites all academically talented students whose parents will be living in the State of Illinois as of the first day of school to apply.

Uni High is a public school; however, as a unit within the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Uni is not supported by local property tax dollars. As a result, Uni must receive support from other sources. The State Board of Education provides the greatest portion of funds through legislative funding guidelines passed in 1983. The University of Illinois provides building maintenance, utilities, some salary support, and other services. Since Uni does not receive local property tax dollars, parents are asked to make a donation to help support the annual budget. Currently, private donations provide 25% of Uni High’s budget. Voluntary financial support from parents ensures that the experiences of today’s students match those of our remarkable graduates.

### Uni Programs

Uni offers a five-year accelerated high school curriculum that begins with the subfreshman year — a combination of the seventh and eighth grades. Requirements are the following:

- five years of English;
- two consecutive years of French, German, Japanese, Latin or Spanish;
- four years of mathematics, science, and social studies;
- five years of fitness conditioning in physical education;
- one and a half years of arts (including the subfreshman interrelated arts program which includes art, drama and music);
- one year of computer science (including the subfreshman interdisciplinary computer literacy course); and
- required health and driver’s education courses.

Uni students have the opportunity to select other courses to add depth and breadth to their requirements. Additionally, Uni students who are at least 15 years old and have earned a “B” average may enroll concurrently in University of Illinois courses. Uni students are also eligible to work on independent study projects with UIUC professors and to take courses concurrently at Parkland College. Ninety-nine percent of Uni students attend four-year colleges or universities across the U.S. Several graduates each year defer admission to a four-year institution in order to study abroad, travel or volunteer.

Uni students also participate in a wide variety of school activities, and students may start new clubs related to their special interests after securing faculty sponsorship and Student Council approval. Membership in clubs is open to all students. Students assist the school through elected service on the Student Council and the Student-Faculty Advisory Committee. The arts and athletics programs at Uni are among the most extensive in the country for schools of similar size. The athletic program practices a “no-cut” policy that allows any student to participate in competitive athletics. The fine arts programs in music, drama, and art offer similar opportunities for students of various levels of talent. More than 66 percent of the students at Uni play on interscholastic teams, and more than 70 percent of the students at Uni participate in fine arts activities. During the year, Uni students sponsor several school-wide programs. During Agora Week, Uni students, parents, teachers, alumni and community experts have the opportunity to take or teach classes that represent the broad interests of the Uni community. This allows students to introduce themselves to new topics and experiences.

## Uni Costs

Uni is a public school and does not charge tuition. Expenses include student fees (approximately \$350-\$450 per year) and books and supplies (approximately \$500 per year). Financial assistance to pay for fees and books is available from Uni for families who can demonstrate financial need.

## Admission

An admissions committee reviews applications on a name-blind basis and makes recommendations to the Director of University Laboratory High School. Each year, Uni accepts 60 students into its subfreshman class. All current sixth and seventh graders whose parents will be living in the State of Illinois as of the first day of school are eligible to apply. Students must be 11 years old on the first day of classes.

Applications for admission to grades 9-12 are considered only on a space-available basis. However, Uni encourages applications from any interested students who are or will be residents of the state of Illinois by the first day of school. Admission to Uni is highly competitive. Uni admits equal numbers of girls and boys in the subfreshman class. Admission decisions are made without regard to home school district or any affiliation with the University of Illinois. Uni strives to build a class of incoming students that is inclusive and representative of the surrounding communities. Admission is for August entry only. Admission decisions are final. There is no appeal process.

The admissions committee considers the following criteria when making its decision:

- Demonstrates a superior school record;
- Evidence of strong academic motivation;
- Secondary School Admission Test results;
- Evidence of outstanding creativity, leadership, initiative, or interests;
- Evidence of writing ability based on SSAT writing sample;
- Information on the application provided by the applicant;
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers of academic areas. (The Admissions Committee will only consider two letters of recommendation. Please submit only two.)

## Finding Out More About Uni

Students and families interested in Uni are invited to attend an informational meeting. Meetings at Uni High begin at 7 p.m. and usually are held in the Digital Computer Lab (the east door of the building directly west of Uni High). Meeting dates are September 16, October 14, November 4, December 2, January 6, and February 17.

## The Admission Process

- Please download the application forms directly from the Uni website: <http://www.uni.illinois.edu>.
- If you do not have access to a computer, you may contact Barb Gerdes for assistance.

Barb Gerdes  
University Laboratory High School  
1212 W. Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-2870  
[baschenb@uni.illinois.edu](mailto:baschenb@uni.illinois.edu)

- Use the release form in the admission packet to direct the applicant's current school to send official school records to Uni. Records **must** be released directly by the school to Uni. We will not accept any school records provided by an applicant.
- Ask two teachers, who have met with the student on a daily basis within the past two academic years, to complete the recommendations form for admission to Uni. We will only accept two (2) recommendation forms.
- Take the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT).

## The SSAT

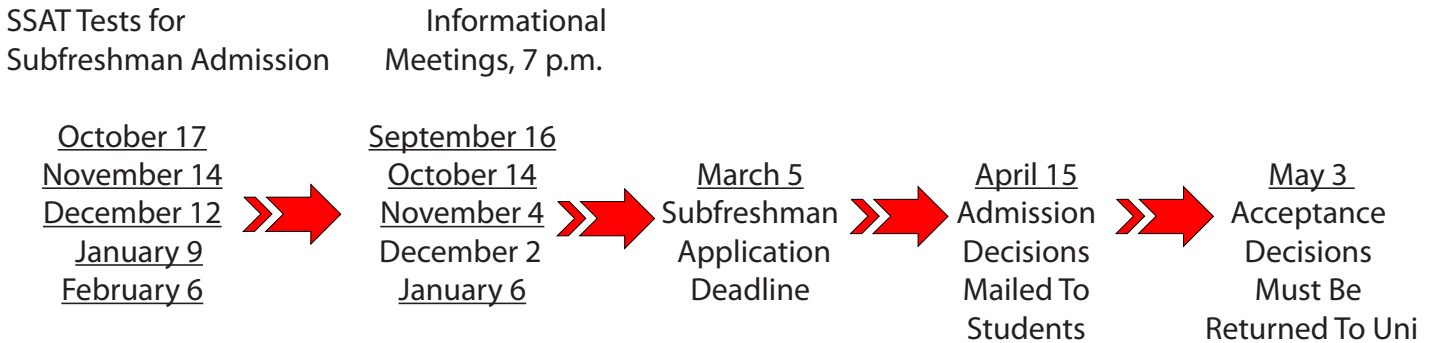
- The SSAT is the examination Uni uses to help assess an applicant's verbal, quantitative, reading and writing aptitude; these help predict the applicant's ability to do the work at Uni. Registration forms for the SSAT are contained in the admission packet or online at <http://www.SSAT.org>.
- SSAT offers a study guide (*Preparing and Applying*) for prospective applicants. The guide includes a full-length practice test, review tips and exercises, sample answer sheets and test-scoring instructions. You can order this guide when you register for the test or by using the order form of the SSAT Student Registration Guide. The fee is \$28.
- Test dates for SUBFRESHMAN admission are October 17, November 14, December 12, January 9, and February 6.
- Test dates for HIGH SCHOOL admission are October 17, November 14, December 12, January 9, February 7, March 6, and April 17. Applicants for grades 9-12 must take the upper level of the SSAT.
- If an applicant has taken the SSAT more than once, the admission committee will consider only the test results from the last test date unless the committee receives a written request to use earlier scores.
- The test fee is \$110. Sign up after the original registration deadline is \$140. To sign up for a standby test is \$170.
- Fee waivers are available for eligible families. To determine if the applicant is eligible for a fee waiver, call Barb Gerdes, 217-333-2870.
- For Sabbath Sunday accommodations, contact Barb Gerdes at 217-333-2870.
- When registering for the SSAT, make sure that you request your scores be sent to University Laboratory High School (code number 7820). Uni will not accept unofficial score reports from the applicant.
- **SSAT scores taken before 6th grade will not be considered.**

## Admission Deadlines

The SUBFRESHMAN application deadline is **March 5, 2009**. The HIGH SCHOOL application deadline is **May 3, 2009**. Subfreshman admission decisions will be mailed to students on April 16. High school admission decisions will be mailed to students on May 24.

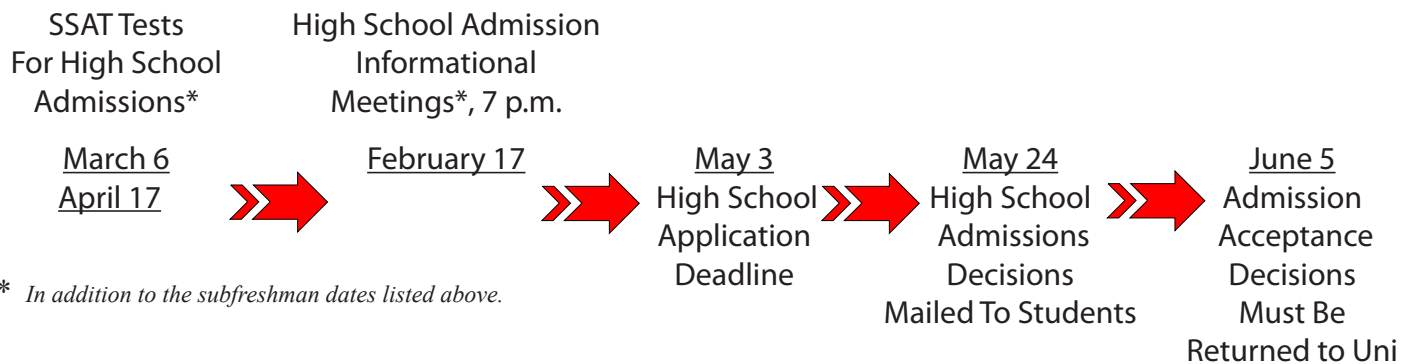
# SUBFRESHMAN Admissions Process Timeline

All subfreshman application materials are to be submitted for consideration by March 5, 2010. Any materials received after that date must be postmarked on or before March 5, 2010. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO CONFIRM THAT THE APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND RECEIVED BY UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL BY THE DEADLINE.



# HIGH SCHOOL Admissions Process Timeline

All applications for high school grades (9-12) are to be submitted for consideration by May 4, 2009. Any materials received after that date must be postmarked on or before May 4, 2009. It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm that the application is complete and received by University Laboratory High School by the deadline.



\* In addition to the subfreshman dates listed above.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Barb Gerdes  
University Laboratory High School  
1212 W. Springfield Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-2870  
baschenb@uni.uiuc.edu

It is the policy of the University of Illinois not to engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era and to comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders, and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities. Complaints of invidious discrimination prohibited by University policy are to be resolved within existing University procedures.

For additional information or assistance on equal opportunity and access policies, as well as other University policies or information on federal and state civil rights laws, please contact: Larine Y. Cowan, Assistant Chancellor and Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, 100A Swanlund Administration Building MC-304, 601 E. John Street, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 333-0885.