ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

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School Code: 010-326

A public school with the entire state as its district, Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA) admits students through application and audition, providing tuition-free instruction in six specialty areas: creative writing, dance, math & science, music, theatre, and visual arts, plus a full college preparatory curriculum. Located in the heart of Birmingham's downtown cultural district, ASFA provides a dormitory for students living beyond commuting distance.

WHAT MAKES ASFA DIFFERENT?

- Partially residential, publicly funded secondary school enrolling grades 7-12.
- Six major Specialties: Creative Writing, Dance, Math & Science, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.
- Competitive admission based on application, letters of recommendation, school records, audition and/or interview.
- Extended school day (8:00 am - 4:40 pm) includes six core academic periods of 45 minutes and minimum of 3 hours of Specialty instruction per day.
- Due to our extended school day and significant departmental commitments, ASFA sponsors no athletics or extracurricular activities unless directly tied to our Specialty programs.
- All seniors create an original, substantial research project, written work, performance or exhibit in their Specialty.
- We do not rank.
- We ask students to answer application questions about disciplinary history honestly in a written statement to the admission office.

MARKING SYSTEM AND RELATED PROCEDURES

- Grades assigned on a 10-point grading scale as follows: A= 90-100, B= 80-89, C= 70-79 and D= 60-69
- GPA based on a 4.0 scale.
- For weighted GPA, 1 point is assigned to all Specialty and AP courses.
- On the transcript, the symbol > precedes weighted courses.
- We report both weighted & unweighted GPAs on transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Specialty area — 16 credits
English — 4 credits
Social Studies — 4 credits
Math — 4 credits *
Science — 4 credits
Foreign Language — 2 credits
Fine Arts — 1.5 credits for Math/Science students
Health & Wellness — 1.5 credits
Computer Applications — .5 credit *

ADVANCED COURSES

These demanding courses require extra preparation, rehearsal, and/or study time. Most use college texts and teaching methodologies, and are paced to match undergraduate offerings. **We strenuously urge colleges to include ASFA Specialty courses in GPA calculations and to weight them at or beyond Advanced Placement level—as you would the most rigorous academic courses.** See complete curriculum catalog at www.asfaschool.org/academics.

CORE CLASSES—Open to All Students:

English British Literature

Mathematics *
AP Calculus AB

Science
AP Environmental Science
Human Anatomy and Physiology
Physics

Social Studies
Advanced Studies in U.S. History II
AP U.S. Government and Politics
AP Macroeconomics

Computer Science
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles *
Problem Solving with C/C++

World Languages
AP French, AP Spanish, and AP Latin

Electives
Advanced Art History
AP Psychology

SPECIALTY COURSES—Available only to students within each Specialty listed below:

Creative Writing
Practicum I
Practicum II
Senior Thesis Workshop

Dance
Ballet/Pointe
Modern/Repertory
Rehearsal/Performance

Math/Science Specialty
Abstract Algebra
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
AP Physics C: Mechanics
AP Seminar
Differential Equations
Research & Inquiry

Music
Advanced Music History
Music Theory
Senior Recital

Theatre Arts
Directing
Theatre History
Senior Theatre Project

Visual Arts
Senior Thesis

* AP Computer Science Principles may fulfill math requirement for arts students.

ADMISSION TO ASFA 2020-2023

46% OVERALL ACCEPTANCE RATE

BY SPECIALTY DEPARTMENT

Creative Writing	53%	Music	48%
Dance	67%	Theatre Arts	35%
Math/Science	57%	Visual Arts	29%

CLASS OF 2023 GPA DISTRIBUTION

	WEIGHTED	UNWEIGHTED
First Quartile	4.37—4.53	3.85—4.0
Second Quartile	4.14—4.36	3.62—3.83
Third Quartile	3.95—4.12	3.42—3.61
Fourth Quartile	3.22—3.91	2.84—3.41

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

344 students grades 7-12. 56 seniors
29% male, 71% female

- 29% African-American
- 18% Asian
- 52% Caucasian
- >1% Hispanic
- >1% Native American/Pacific Islander
- >1% Multiracial

21% qualify for free or reduced lunch.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

ACT

			ASFA	State	Natl.
Middle 50%	22—32	**Mean:**	26.8	18.8	20.8

SAT

		Mean:	ASFA	State	Natl.
Reading & Writing	645-725		695	593	541
Math	715-780		755	572	538
Composite	1375-1500		1435	1165	1088

COLLEGE CHOICES AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Over the past four years, 91% of ASFA graduates have won merit scholarships, compared to the national average of 22%. Approximately 95% of ASFA students matriculated to four-year institutions, 2% to two-year colleges, 3% took a gap year, and <1% entered the workforce or military. Following is a representative college list:

Bold indicates 3 or more students attending.

Agnes Scott College
Appalachian State University
Auburn University
Bard College
Barnard College
Belmont University
Bennington College
Berklee College of Music
Berry College
Birmingham-Southern College
Brenau University
Brigham Young University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
California Institute of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
College of the Atlantic
Columbia College (Chicago)
Columbia University
Cooper Union for Advancement of Science & Art
Eastern Kentucky University
Eastman School of Music
Eckerd College
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Gadsden State Community College
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Howard University
Huntingdon College
Indiana University Bloomington
Jacksonville State University
Jefferson State Community College
Kansas City Art Institute
Knox College
Lipscomb University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Manhattan School of Music
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Middle Tennessee State University
Miles College
Mills College
Mississippi State University
New College of Florida
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Kentucky University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Oxford College of Emory University
Pace University (New York City)
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Pepperdine University
Point Park University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University (Main Campus)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
Samford University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts
Southern Methodist University
Southern University and A&M College
Stanford University
SUNY at Purchase College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas Christian University
The Juilliard School
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
Trinity University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Tuskegee University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Cincinnati
University of Maryland (College Park)
University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
University of Mississippi
University of Montevallo
University of New Orleans
University of North Alabama
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Alabama
University of Virginia
University of Wyoming
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wallace State Community College
Wright State University
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University

COVID STATEMENT ASFA conducted all virtual learning from mid March 2020 through mid-October 2020. After that, students had the option to attend in a hybrid model in which the core academic classes continued virtually while Specialty classes met in person. The Specialty Departments were split into two cohorts with each cohort meeting in person for three weeks at a time. It was especially challenging to deliver Specialty instruction in our arts areas as well as lab sciences. Students received standard numerical grades throughout this period.