Arkansas’ Premier Public High School
The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts is a specific investment by the General Assembly in the state’s most talented and promising young minds. Each year, 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students from across Arkansas come to ASMSA to live and learn within a community of 230 intellectual peers. The residential experience combines college-level coursework, dynamic faculty, advanced research opportunities, diverse experiences within the arts, study abroad trips, and more to create an educational community unlike any other in Arkansas.

Student Transcripts
ASMSA issues a unified transcript that reflects coursework from both the sending school and ASMSA. Transcripts include grades earned from students’ freshman and sophomore years of high school from their local, community schools as well as coursework completed in residence during their junior and senior years at ASMSA.

Unweighted GPAs are reported on a 4.0 scale. Weighted GPAs are tabulated for colleges that consider them. A quality point is added for each course completed for concurrent credit taken through University of Arkansas at Fort Smith as well as additional high school courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education’s Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Concurrent courses receiving either 3 or 4 hours of college credit are awarded 1 unit of ASMSA credit toward completion of high school graduation requirements per ADE regulations.

Because the majority of disciplinary events are related to unique community standards and expectations, ASMSA does not report discipline as part of the college admissions process. Due to the selective nature of ASMSA and the overall strength of our student body, ASMSA does not calculate students’ class ranks.

COVID-19 Statement
ASMSA suspended its residential experience and transitioned to remote learning on March 13, 2020, as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic. Because of this sudden transition, all elective coursework for the semester was graded on a Credit/Fail (CR/F) system for the spring 2020 semester. Due to a revised UA–Fort Smith policy, students could also elect to receive a Pass/Fail (CR/F) grade for UAFS/ASMSA concurrent coursework or elect for the letter grade. ASMSA waived the usual five-course minimum to allow students to focus their energies on necessary courses amid remote learning.

Despite these unusual circumstances, ASMSA will still be offering a robust and rigorous curriculum. For the fall 2020 semester, ASMSA is facilitating residential, online, and hybrid courses to students. Regardless of instructional method, all courses will follow a structured schedule to allow for a synchronous approach. Research-intensive courses, regardless of the instructional method, will still offer laboratory experiences. To better accommodate proper social distancing, the needs of remote learners, and the potential for unexpected disruptions to the learning environment, ASMSA gave precedence to graduation requirements over elective courses when creating the semester’s course schedule.

ACT Range | Unweighted GPA Range |
---|---|
31 High (75%) | 3.97 High (75%) |
28.8 Mean Composite | 3.84 Mean GPA |
26 Low (25%) | 3.75 Low (25%) |

Scores updated August 2020
At present, the Class of 2021 includes 99 students.
Academic Engagement through a “College Bridge” Experience

ASMSA offers a “college bridge” program where each student earns at least 30 hours of college credit through our partnership with UA-Fort Smith. ASMSA’s Concurrent Core consists of classes across composition, literature, history, global languages, math, biology, chemistry, physics, and computer science. Students must also satisfy state graduation requirements, in social sciences, art, and other subjects. Nearly 70 courses are available for college credit. ASMSA has chosen to pursue partnership credit instead of Advanced Placement coursework in order to provide our talented faculty with the flexibility to create a more dynamic and engaging set of classroom experiences for students.

College Readiness through Residential Education

While college readiness is often defined by ACT benchmarks or other standardized exams, the residential experience offered to ASMSA students emphasizes independent living, autonomous decision-making, leadership development, cultural diversity, emotional wellness, and other life skills. As students transition to life on college and university campuses, their residential education is equal to their classroom experiences in preparing them for the steps ahead.

Capstone Projects and Learning Beyond the Classroom

ASMSA students have the opportunity to conduct real-world explorations guided by faculty mentors. Students invested in STEM disciplines complete a research project on a subject of their choice, often leading to recognition at the state and international science fairs. Arts and Humanities students have the option of completing a Humanities Symposium project or a portfolio of creative works. Students interested in entrepreneurship engage with statewide industry leaders and growing startups as well as participate in business pitch competitions that introduce them to the basics of establishing their own business venture.

Study Abroad and Global Learning

ASMSA’s Global Learning Program opens doors of possibility to students as they explore other languages and cultures through multiple study abroad excursions and visits from international guests. Students are also selected annually for immersion programs like the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. Over the past seven years, more than 500 ASMSA students have studied abroad.

EARNING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ASMSA has consistently earned recognition as one of the nation’s top public high schools.

Recipient of 2019 NCSSS Innovative Program Partnership Award

21st nationally in Study.com’s list of top STEM high schools

Recognized by Code.org as a Champion of Computer Science

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOLADES

99% College Matriculation or Military Enlistment

5 members of the Class of 2021 have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

39 students have represented Arkansas at the Intel ISEF over the past five years, including 12 who earned recognition.

$266 million in college scholarships have been awarded to ASMSA alumni.

STUDENT DIVERSITY

35% of students are from families qualifying for federal school meal programs.

29% of recent graduates are on the path to becoming the first member of their family to earn a college degree.

32% of recent graduates come from Arkansas Delta counties.

37% identify as students of color.

Ethnicity | Total | Percentage | Arkansas Percentage
--- | --- | --- | ---
American Indian | 0 | 0.0% | 1.0%
Asian | 32 | 13.5% | 1.7%
African-American/Black | 20 | 8.5% | 15.7%
Hispanic/Latino | 7 | 3.0% | 7.7%
Caucasian/White | 149 | 63.4% | 72.2%
Multiple/Other | 28 | 11.9% | 2.2%
ARKANSAS SCHOOL
FOR MATH, SCIENCES, + THE ARTS

2020-21 SCHOOL PROFILE

SIX WAYS ASMSA PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND BEYOND

Close Contact
ASMSA has a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:9 and counselor-to-student ratio of 1:77.

Real-World Research
All students undertake and complete an independent capstone project spanning junior and senior years.

College-Level Academics
ASMSA graduates finish high school with an average of 50 hours of college credit.

Diverse Learners
ASMSA has the highest percentage of low-income students at any of the nation’s 16 public residential STEM schools.

Global Citizens
ASMSA is committed to international engagement through study abroad, language immersion, and other partnerships.

Coding the Future
ASMSA is the only high school in Arkansas to require a computer science class in order to graduate.

Five-Year Matriculation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arkansas Universities &amp; Colleges</th>
<th>University of Arkansas System</th>
<th>Out-of-State College &amp; Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

College Majors of Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEM Disciplines</th>
<th>64%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Fields</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Creativity</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Languages</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>