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 250 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.

School Mission

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, a campus of the University of Arkansas System, is a public residential high school serving academically and artistically motivated students of all backgrounds from throughout the state. ASMSA’s community of learning exemplifies excellence across disciplines while serving as a statewide center of academic equity and opportunity that ignites the full potential of Arkansas’ students and educators.

Student Transcripts

ASMSA’s main admissions pathway is for juniors, but two pilot programs for sophomore enrollment exist. ASMSA issues a unified transcript that includes high school coursework from both the sending school and ASMSA that reflects the appropriate grade level of academic achievement at their local, community school as well as coursework completed in residence during their two or three 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

2020–2021 Academic Year

Despite these unusual circumstances, ASMSA was still able to offer a robust and rigorous curriculum. For the fall 2020 semester, ASMSA facilitated residential, online, and hybrid courses for students. Students were given the choice at the beginning of each semester. Regardless of the instructional method, all courses were held synchronously. Research-intensive courses, regardless of the instructional method, still offered 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 year’s master schedule, which resulted in fewer offerings. ASMSA also suspended its athletic partnership with Hot Springs High School which prohibited our students from participating in interscholastic athletics.

2021–2022 Academic Year and Beyond

ASMSA will only offer a residential model while attempting to recreate a pre-pandemic model. We remain adaptable yet committed to our students’ overall education and safety. Students who are in isolation or quarantine continue to have direct access to course participation through synchronous Zoom classes.

ACT Range Unweighted GPA Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Unweighted GPA</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>3.97</td>
<td>High (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>Mean Composite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>Low (25%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scores updated September 2022

At present, the Class of 2023 includes 81 students.

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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 decade, more than 500 ASMSA students have studied abroad.
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 17 public residential STEM schools.

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

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

COLLEGE MATRICULATION
CLASSES 2020-2022

Agnes Scott College
Amherst College
Arkansas State University
Arkansas Tech University
Baylor University
Bowdoin College
Bradley University
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Colby College
Colorado College
Cornell University
Cornish College of the Arts
Dennison University
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
Grinnell College
Harvey Mudd College
Henderson State University
Hendrix College
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
John Brown University
Kansas City Art Institute
Loyola University
Luther College
Lyon College
Macalester College
MIT
Miami (Ohio) University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mississippi College
Mississippi State University
Missouri S & T
Missouri State University
Murray State University
National Park College
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Ouachita Baptist University
Philander Smith College
Pomona College
Pulaski Technical College
Purdue University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Rice University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Scripps College
Southern Arkansas University
St Louis University
Stanford University
Tennessee State University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama-Huntsville
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas–Fort Smith
University of Arkansas–Little Rock
University of Ark.-Rich Mountain
University of Central Arkansas
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
University of Florida
University of Iowa
University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri–Kansas City
University of New England
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Tulsa
University of Vermont
Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Washington University–St Louis
Yale University

FIVE-YEAR MATRICULATION RATES

Arkansas Universities & Colleges: 61%
University of Arkansas System: 35%
Out-of-State Colleges & Universities: 39%

COLLEGE MAJORS OF CHOICE FOR RECENT GRADUATES

STEM Disciplines: 64%
Arts & Creativity: 7%
Computer Science: 10%
Biomedical Fields: 27%
Engineering: 18%
Earth Sciences & Sustainability: 5%
Global Languages: 5%
Business: 7%