



The Creative Writing Department at ASFA

The ASFA Creative Writing department offers a disciplined study of poetry and prose for grades 7 – 12. Students do more than simply produce poems, stories, and creative nonfiction of high literary merit. Because we believe good writing requires good thinking, the department's primary goal is to develop students' critical thinking skills. Our rigorous program of writing workshops, literature surveys, and professional development opportunities is designed to help each young writer cultivate a writing process that is demanding, rewarding, and sustainable.

Application Procedure

To apply to the Creative Writing Department at ASFA, you must be a rising 7th – 11th grader.

To complete an application, you must follow and complete STEPS 1, 2, & 3 as outlined on the school's website. If you are reading this document, you should have already completed STEPS 1 & 2. This document instructs you how to complete STEP 3: *Complete & Submit Pre-Audition Requirements*.

Application Deadline: You must complete STEPS 1, 2, & 3 and ASFA must receive all required materials by January 31, 2025.

STEP 3: Complete & Submit Pre-Audition Requirements

Creative Writing applicants must submit a Writing Portfolio that adheres to all the following requirements:

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME on any writing samples. When Creative Writing faculty assess the portfolios, they do not know the student's name, sex or other identifying information.

- Include a cover page on your writing portfolio labeled with applicant's name, grade, and birthdate.
- Label each page with appropriate headings (poetry, short fiction, and personal essay) and individual titles. Also, each page of the writing portfolio must be labeled with the applicant's birthdate in the right-hand corner (ex: June 14, 2001 should read 61401).
- The portfolio must be submitted electronically, 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Single-space poetry and double-space short fiction and personal essay.
- Do not include illustrations, clip art, or submit more work than requested in the writing guidelines.

Portfolios that do not follow these guidelines will not be read. The portfolio must be sent to ASFA **on or before the deadline** to Katie Gordon (address below). The following requirements apply to **all grades 7 – 11**.

POETRY – five to seven (5 – 7) poems. Note: this refers to individual poems, not pages.

SHORT FICTION – five to ten (5 – 10) pages of short fiction

PERSONAL ESSAY – One to two (1 – 2) pages. Pick **ONE** of the following essay prompts:

- Write about the most transformative moment you experienced last year.
- How does writing change the way you see the world?
- What objects tell the story of your life?

The writing portfolio should be organized in the order listed above. **Only completed applications received by the deadline** will be reviewed. When the audition committee reaches a decision, we will notify you.

IMPORTANT: The pre-audition requirements here in **STEP 3**, along with the information you completed in **STEPS 1 & 2** will be reviewed to determine if you will be invited for a live, on-campus audition on **March 15, 2025**. To learn about the live, on-campus audition requirements, you may continue to read into the next section.

Live, On-Campus Audition Requirements

For those applicants invited to a live, on-campus audition, applicants must complete a 90-minute writing assignment and a 10-minute interview with the Creative Writing Audition Committee.

Email Creative Writing Portfolio to
Katie Gordon
Registrar and Applications Manager
Email: kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us

For questions about completing applications contact
Katie Gordon
205.252.9241
Email: kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us

For questions about specific audition requirements contact
T. J. Beitelman
Chair, Creative Writing Department
Email: tjbeitelman@asfa.k12.al.us