



The Visual Arts Department at ASFA

The Visual Arts Department of the Alabama School of Fine Arts offers an advanced course of study in traditional and new media, and the history of art. Instruction emphasizes visual awareness, original and creative thinking, critical analysis and excellence of technique and craftsmanship. Upon completion of this program, a highly motivated student is prepared for higher educational institutions, universities, and art schools.

To flourish in the Visual Arts Department a student must...

- Demonstrate a high level of self-motivation and maturity
- Prove themselves to be a student with tremendous integrity
- Possess a diligent work ethic
- Be willing to embrace new ideas and concepts
- Be very passionate about their craft
- Have an excellent grasp of the principles of unity, balance, movement, and proportion
- Trust and respect their teachers

Application Procedure

To apply to the Visual Arts 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

I. PRE-AUDITION BY MAIL – Rising 7th – 10th grade

The Visual Arts Department must receive the following three assignments executed on 8.5" x 11" paper on or before the deadline. Student's name must be on the back of all pre-audition assignments.

1. A portrait of a person, from observation, in pencil
2. A detailed drawing of your bedroom, in pen
3. A color rendering of fruit or vegetables

Applicants are encouraged to approach these assignments from a personal point of view. Failure to meet this deadline will render your application incomplete, and you will not be invited to ASFA for an on-site audition.

Send the three assignments to (or you may bring the assignments to the school):

Katie Gordon

Alabama School of Fine Arts

1800 Reverend Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd.

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

II. Rising 11th Grade Students

Students wishing to apply for 11th grade must contact the Visual Arts Department chair for further **Pre-audition requirements**.

Contact: Darius Hill, Chair of Visual Arts

Email dhill@asfa.k12.al.us

205.252.9241 ext. 2236

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 8, 2025. To learn about the live, on-campus audition requirements, you may continue to read into the next section.

Live, On-Campus Audition Requirements

I. ON-SITE AUDITION BY INVITATION

The On-Site Audition will consist of the following three parts:

1. A portfolio evaluation
2. An on-site drawing assignment
3. A personal interview between the student and the Visual Arts Faculty

Each applicant must bring to the on-campus audition a portfolio that contains a minimum of 24 works executed in the last 12 months. The works may be in any medium. Sculpture, ceramics, glass or other fragile mediums, as well as very large works, should be represented by photograph or slide. (Presentation is an important consideration.) Drawings or paintings on paper should be matted or mounted on poster board or foam-core to protect the work from damage, and to present the work at its best. **Professional matting is not necessary.** Your name should appear on the back of each work.

1. The **portfolio is the most significant portion** of the Visual Arts audition. Be selective. Include your best work. If your collection consists of more than the required 24 pieces, select only those you consider to be the most accomplished. The portfolio should reflect your current level of expertise, and therefore should contain works executed in the last 12 months that demonstrate your technical skill and versatility with different mediums, and your sophistication of conceptual originality.
2. **Portfolio Preparation** - Since drawing is at the core of fine art, we look for student work at all grade levels to demonstrate their ability to render subject matter from life. It is through life

drawing that we can better assess a student's abilities regarding compositional awareness, accuracy of observation, and aesthetic sophistication. It is very difficult to determine the ability of a student who has a portfolio that consists primarily of cartoons, fantasy art, and drawings copied from photographs. Although it is important for us to know the art interests of the student, it is more important that the portfolio demonstrates originality, technical ability, and technical versatility.

3. During the audition, each applicant will be required **to make 2 drawings from life** in a classroom setting.
4. Each candidate will have a **personal interview** with the faculty audition committee.

For questions about applications contact

Katie Gordon
205.252.9241
Email: kgordon@asfa.k12.al.us

**For questions about specific pre-audition and live, on-campus audition requirements
contact**

Darius Hill
Chair, Visual Arts Department
Email: dhill@asfaschool.org